

Cairo students battle for right to wear veil

CAIRO (AFP) — Law students Hanan Al Sayed took her exams in a special room at Cairo University so the invigilator could lift the veil through which only her eyes could be seen to check her identity.

At 20 years old Hanan wears the "niqab" or a full veil and dreams of becoming a lawyer to defend her sisters who want both to conform to Islam and its dress codes and have careers.

But she denies she is a supporter of Muslim militants who are waging a bloody anti-government campaign, saying: "I have nothing to do with those who carry arms."

The battle over the veil, seen as a symbol of Islamic extremism by education authorities, is set to come to a head at the end of January when five of her fellow students are to protest in court at being told to leave the university campus.

They were accused by the authorities of distributing cassettes of prayers by Islamic clerics.

"It is the first time that a Muslim country is trying to forbid any form of Muslim activism within universities even if it has not got a political connotation and is nothing but a simple expression of faith," said their lawyer Ahmad Ghazali.

"It is unacceptable that the mini-skirt is tolerated in the faculty but not the niqab in this Muslim country," he argued.

That will form the kernel of his defence when the trial opens and he pleads for the five girls to be readmitted to the campus.

Egyptian authorities have been distrustful of the niqab since armed Muslim militants disguised as women donned the all-encompassing garb to be able to move freely around the university.

And their suspicion has increased over the years with the continued campaign launched in March 1992 which has left nearly 600 dead.

Education Minister Hussein Kamal Bahaadine, a vehement opponent of the militants, told AFP: "The veil and the niqab are used by fundamentalists to show their strength, by making out that every veiled girl is one of their supporters. That's why we have decreed that the wearing of the niqab to school must be limited."

He added that teachers are also forbidden from wearing the full veil.

"Teaching is about creating contact and the niqab prevents communication. So we have banned those who refuse to take it off from lessons."

But one of the students expelled from the halls of residence Nabila Fathi, 22, said: "In order to do a public job women have to give up the niqab and men have to give up their beards. So there is no question of becoming a television presenter, a teacher or an actress."

Hanan added that wearing the niqab is often a tough choice.



An Israeli mounted policeman charges demonstrators late Sunday as violence erupted during a protest held in Jerusalem against the Israeli government peace policy, following two suicide bomb attacks (AFP photo)

Islamic Jihad leader: Open war with Israel

GAZA CITY (AP) — The spiritual leader of the Islamic Jihad group which claimed the suicide bombing in which at least 18 Israelis were killed Sunday sat cross-legged on a straw mat, watching footage of the attack aftermath on Israel Television.

"It's an open war between us and the Israelis that won't be settled with one operation here and another operation there," Sheikh Abdullah Shami said. "Such attacks just inflict pain on the Israelis and act as a deterrent against their crimes."

For Sheikh Shami and his movement, only the obliteration of Israel will do.

"The solution lies in uprooting the cause of the problem... the state of Israel," said Sheikh Shami, a former history teacher who was deported to Lebanon in December 1992.

Members of Islamic Jihad see destroying Israel as their divine mission and a first step towards their ultimate goal: The establishment of an Islamic empire that would include all Middle Eastern

states.

They readily admit that they lack the sophisticated arsenal that Israel has. But they boast — in banners, slogans and speeches — that they have a single weapon that would defeat the Israelis: their faith.

They say it is faith that turns an activist into a kamikaze willing to blow himself up and fulfil the duty of devout Muslims to die in order to preserve Islam. Their slogans reflect these beliefs:

"A booby-trapped body is our way to heaven."

"A mujahid (holy warrior) who can blow himself up with little equipment is much stronger than a mechanised battalion."

"We explode the heads of the Israelis and knock with them on the gates of paradise."

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for an attack in November in which a Palestinian with explosives strapped to his body drove a bicycle into an army post outside the Jewish settlement of Netzar-

im in the Gaza Strip. The blast killed three Israeli officers and wounded 11, including several Palestinians.

The group said the attack was in reprisal for the car-bombing death of Hani Abed, a professional chemist and a leader in the military wing of Islamic Jihad.

Islamic Jihad activists number in the hundreds in Gaza but keep their membership secret even from their families.

Palestinian sources say the group receives \$3 million a year from Iran. Their weapons are believed to be smuggled through Gaza Port, a tiny one-pier harbour, or from neighbouring Egypt.

The Islamic Jihad Movement was formed in the late 1970s by activists who left Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction and the Egyptian-based Muslim Brotherhood. They believed the leaders of those movements had be-

come too conciliatory towards Israel.

Its members were influenced by the Islamic revolution of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who overthrew the Shah of Iran in 1979 and set up his own Islamic state.

Two of its founders were Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Oudeh, also considered a spiritual guide of the group, and Fathi Shaqaqi, the political leader of the group who is from the refugee camp of Rafah.

Both men were expelled by the Israelis to Lebanon in 1982. They then moved to Syria where they set up offices.

In a two-page statement faxed to the AP office in Damascus, Islamic Jihad's military wing said its militants carried out the "heroic operation."

"The knights of Islam will penetrate the barriers of illusion... as well as the enemy's positions in order to reach the depth of Palestine," the group said.

Jordan's first cardiomyoplasty surgery at Al Hussein Medical Centre

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two heart surgeons at the King Hussein Medical Centre have successfully carried out a cardiomyoplasty operation, the first of its kind in Jordan and the second in the Middle East.

The five-hour operation was conducted by Ziyad Akasheh and Husam Nshewat. The patient was in the intensive care unit on Monday but was in satisfactory condition.

The operation entailed the removal of the latissimus dorsi muscle which is close to the chest and abdomen and wrapping it around the heart in order to assist the heart's functioning, Dr. Nshewat told the Jordan Times.

He said cardiologists resort to this procedure when faced with cardiomyopathy (weakness of the heart muscle). In cases of severe cardiomyopathy, cardiologists conduct heart transplants, Dr. Nshewat said.

Dr. Nshewat said he and

Dr. Akasheh planted a device called a "cardiomyo stimulator" in the muscles of the abdomen to be activated in two weeks from now in order to help the heart.

"We also inserted an intra aortic balloon to ensure there will be no heart failure," said Dr. Nshewat, who added that this insertion will last only for a few days.

The patient, Ahmad Mohammad Qasem, 31, from Ajloun Governorate, was expected to leave the ICU in three days.

Thousands attend Bazargan funeral

TEHRAN (AFP) — More than 30,000 mourners on Monday attended the funeral of former Prime Minister Mohammad Bazargan who headed the first government after the 1979 Islamic revolution and was a key opposition figure for more than 50 years.

Friends and supporters gathered in front of Husseinieh-Ershad mosque in northern Tehran to pay their last respects to Bazargan, who died of a heart failure in a Swiss hospital on Friday at the age of 88.

His body, wrapped in a rug and placed in a modest wooden coffin covered with the Iranian flag, was brought out of the mosque after prayers were read and carried through the streets in northern Tehran.

Many intellectuals and prominent political figures, including several members of parliament and the vice-president for parliamentary and legal affairs, Attallah Mohajerani, were also present.

Bazargan had been among the few Iranians who dared to openly criticise the policies of the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, especially his refusal to end the 1980-1988 war with Iraq.

To avoid provoking the au-

thorities, the organisers had urged the participants not to chant political slogans and to stick to religious chanting.

But at the end of the ceremony, groups of university students shouted "Bazargan, your way will continue" and "Mosaddegh is mourning today."

They were referring to Mohammad Mosaddegh, who was a prime minister in the early 1950s and remains a symbol of nationalism and democracy in Iran.

An Islamic democrat who fought dictatorship for almost half a century, Bazargan spent a total of six years in prison for his opposition to the Shah.

He headed the first government after the 1979 Islamic revolution, but fell out with the Islamic leadership after failing to reconcile his team of technocrats with the Shiite Muslim clergy, headed by Khomeini.

Bazargan resigned nine months later after students close to Khomeini took 53 hostages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran. He opposed the hostage-taking but could not prevent it.

After a few months of silence, Bazargan returned to the political scene strongly criticising the Iranian leaders whom he accused of "excessive power."

Bazargan headed the Liberation Movement of Iran (LMI), one of the country's few tolerated opposition groups which he founded in 1961. The group accepts the Islamic republic's constitution and continues to advocate change rather than the overthrow of the regime.

He suffered a heart attack early last month but doctors ruled out surgery in Iran because of his age, and his family said he would travel abroad.

He collapsed shortly after arriving at Zurich airport on his way to the United States for medical treatment, and died later in a hospital in the Swiss town.

His body was taken to the holy city of Qom, in central Iran, to be interred in his family's burial place, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said.

Iranian official media have provided a relatively broad coverage of Bazargan's death, and the parliament's deputy speaker, Hassan Ruhani, and the council of ministers have sent condolence messages.

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Clinton asks Cypriot sides to reduce tension

NICOSIA (AP) — Through an envoy, President Clinton asked the rival Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders Monday to explore ways to reducing military tension on their war-divided island.

Mr. Clinton's request was conveyed in separate letters carried by presidential envoy Richard I. Beattie, who started a round of shuttle diplomacy to promote a settlement of the Cyprus problem.

Following a meeting with President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Beattie crossed into the Turkish-occupied sector of the split capital, Nicosia, for talks with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash.

He told reporters he had "useful" talks with both leaders, refusing to elaborate.

His objective is to resolve the deadlock in the U.N.-sponsored Clerides-Denktaş talks for the reunification of the island, and by extension improve relations between North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies Greece and Turkey, soured by the Cyprus conflict.

Mr. Beattie is to have two more separate meetings with the Cypriot leaders Tuesday before flying to Athens and Ankara.

He delivered letters from Mr. Clinton to both Cypriot leaders. Cyprus government spokesman Yannis Cassoulides said the American side had asked Mr. Clerides

to keep the presidential message secret.

Mr. Denktash, however, distributed copies of his letter to reporters.

In this Mr. Clinton said he instructed Mr. Beattie "to convey my resolve that the United States government will continue to assist in finding a solution to the division of Cyprus."

He added that "the two communities on the island need to work together to achieve an overall solution to the Cyprus problem. The United States would like to see a bizonal, bi-communal federation in which the two political communities can exist as a single state."

Mr. Clinton also urged the two sides to proceed with the implementation of U.N.-proposed confidence building measures, such as reopening Nicosia international airport or allowing thousands of Greek Cypriot refugees to return to their homes in a southern suburb of the Turkish-occupied eastern port city of Famagusta.

"In addition, I encourage you to explore creative ways by which military tensions might be reduced," Mr. Clinton wrote. "I am sending a similar request to the Greek Cypriot side."

Cyprus has been partitioned unofficially since July 1974, when Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of the island in the wake of a short-lived coup by supporters of union with Greece.

3,600 female circumcisions a day in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Around 3,600 women are circumcised every day, the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights (EOHR) said Monday as it prepared a campaign against female genital mutilation.

Less than half the operations to remove all or part of the clitoris are carried out by doctors while the rest are done by "barbers or non-qualified people," the watchdog said in a report.

Ninety-five per cent of girls under the age of 16 in rural areas have been circumcised, while 73 per cent of girls in Cairo have undergone the operation, the report said.

Egypt has no laws against circumcision as long as it is carried out by a doctor.

To mobilise public opinion the EOHR published a New Year card with the slogan "Together against female genital mutilation."

The card showed the outline of a young girl with pigtails behind rows of scalpels and scissors in the form of prison bars.

"Circumcision, which is the mutilation and deformation of women's genital organs, is a crime which affects the human body and its health," the statement said.

"Circumcision also contravenes the treaty for the abolition of all forms of segregation of women," the statement added.

Prince Khaled signs contract

LONDON — General Khaled Bin Sultan of Saudi Arabia, commander of the joint forces and the theatre of operations during the Gulf war, has signed a contract with Harper Collins publishing company for the English language rights of his forthcoming book, Desert Warrior. General Khaled was co-commander, with U.S. General Norman Schwarzkopf, of the allied coalition that drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

All proceeds from the book will go to the Bosnian Children's Fund, a charity to help children orphaned by the war in the former Yugoslavia, a spokesman for the general said.

Desert Warrior is a compelling war story, as well as a rich mixture of autobiography and Saudi Arabian history, the spokesman said. It is the first book ever written for an international audience by a member of the Saudi royal family. It is also the first to provide a comprehensive account of the role of all the forces in the coalition, the book makes some challenging recommendations on the security of the strategically critical Gulf region, according to the spokesman.

Mixed reactions from bombers' families

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The families of the two suicide bombers who killed 19 people and wounded 65 on Sunday expressed both joy and fury at the news of their sons' death.

The hardline Islamic Jihad said two of its "martyrs" carried out the double suicide bombing which killed 19 people near the Israeli seaside resort of Netanya north of Tel Aviv on Sunday.

A statement from the group named the men as Anwar Mohammad Attiyeh Sukkar, 23, from Gaza City refugee camp, and Salah Abdul Hamid Shaker Mohammad, 25, from Rafah town in the self-rule Strip.

While the mother of Mohammad cried with joy and sadness at the news, Sukkar's father expressed anger.

He and other relatives threw stones and empty buckets and shouted abuse at 300 Jihad supporters who turned up at their home on Sunday evening with one of the group's leaders, Sheikh Abdullah Al Shami.

Sukkar's relatives also refused to talk to reporters.

In the Rafah district of Yibna however, Mohammad's brother praised the attack and his mother announced the "wedding" of her son.

"Salah, no one can replace you," she wept, adding "this is your wedding day." Chairs were set out for mourners.

"Just a week ago, I saw him looking at pictures of martyrs, praising their acts," said a neighbour of the family who refused to be identified.

"This is an honourable act, but we were surprised — he had no obvious political activity," said Mohammad's brother Ahmad.

"He was religious. He spent his time at the mosque, playing sports at a club and working at a physiotherapy centre."

Many people present said they had last seen Mohammad on Saturday night, and had heard that a car had come to fetch him at midnight.

"This is an honour for us, even though we are sad at learning the news," said his sister Om Alsa.

Screams, cries and wailing poured from the Sukkar house, as loudspeakers in Gaza City blared out a claim of responsibility by Islamic Jihad.

"He was a very nice man and respected by all of us," a neighbour told reporters, who were not invited to enter the house. "He did to the Israelis what they are doing to us."

The neighbour said Sukkar, married with no children, had worked as a carpenter.

A spokesman for Islamic Jihad said Sukkar had spent a year in an Israeli jail in 1989 for being a member of the group.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by George Habash announced: "A military operation against Israeli army officers is perfectly justified and is the way to put an end to occupation."

Lebanese groups put their guerrillas on maximum alert Monday, fearing reprisals for the suicide bombing.

Hizbollah ordered its fighters throughout South Lebanon to stand by for possible Israeli retaliation for Sunday's carnage, sources said.

Hizbollah leaders were instructed to refrain from radio contacts and avoid unnecessary movements, especially travel in motorbikes in the south and in other strongholds in the eastern Bekaa Valley.

The Israeli army will use more sophisticated methods to hunt those responsible for anti-Israeli attacks, army chief Amnon Shabak vowed Monday.

"This is a war that must be fought tirelessly and the security forces are more than determined to hunt the murderers and their leaders," general Shabak said.

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Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int'l Airport 08-57200

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JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Cosmos Minutes
17:30	Que Le Miffleur Gagne
18:00	Embarquement Port 1
18:30	Le Monde Fantastique Des Enfants
19:00	News in French
19:30	Practical Guide to the Universe
20:00	Varities
20:30	You Bet Your Life
21:00	Road to Avonlea
21:30	Equinox
22:00	News in English
22:30	Wild Palms
23:00	The Piglet Files
PRAYER TIMES	
05:09	Fajr
06:30	Sunrise/Duha
11:47	Dhuhr
14:41	Asr
17:05	Maghreb
18:26	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifheh, Tel. 610740	
Assisi of God Church, Tel. 637285	
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622666	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
Assiuta International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 640932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Sunny and warm weather conditions will prevail with a chance of showers in the southern and eastern parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp. Amman 2/15	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba 7/21 Devers Jordan Valley 8/21	ZARQA: Dr. Yuhia Al Tanfani 481520 Khalidi pharmacy 495417	Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615	IRBID: Princess Beama Hospital 0512755555 Greek Catholic Hospital 0512757575 Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 0512547100
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 20, Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 43 per cent.		Electric Power Company 636381 RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200	AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital 0513141111
EMERGENCIES		HOSPITALS	
Food Control Centre 657111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Department Rescue 659341 Civil Defence Emergency 194 Rescue Police 192 657111, 637777 Fire Brigade 637101 Blood Bank 773121 Highway Police 643402 Traffic Police 636590 Public Security Department 658221 Hotel Complaints 665800 Prison Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467 Amman Municipality Complaints 797111 Telephone Information (directors assistance) 121 Overseas Calls 019230 Central Amman Telephone Repairs 625101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 723111 Radio Jordan 774111	AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81381332 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642831.6 Akkleh Maternity, J. Amn 642441.2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642462 Malhas J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisan 641714 Smeisan Hospital 669131 University Hospital 645845 Al-Muasher Hospital 667227.57 The Islamic, Abdali 660127.57 Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641648 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101.3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashraflihi 775111.20 Army, Marka 89161113 Queen Ali Hospital 667155 Amal Hospital 674155 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt Hospital 091983233 Zarqa National Hospital 091900540 Ibn Sina Hospital 091986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital 091909900	QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT <i>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 08-53200 5, where it should always be verified.</i> ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 04:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 07:30 Damascus (RJ) 09:15 Aqaba (RJ) 09:35 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:45 Muscat, Dubai (RJ) 10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 16:30 Cairo (RJ) 17:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ) 18:59 London, Frankfurt (RJ)	

Jordanian, Italian businessmen to review trade, prospects for joint ventures

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Italian businessmen meet today for a close review of expanding trade and prospects for setting up joint ventures as part of a new approach by the European Union (EU) to increase economic cooperation with Mediterranean countries.

A team led by Giorgio Marini, president of the Rome-based Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce, and comprising 35 Italian businessmen, arrived here Monday for the roundtable conference, which will be held on the fringes of a seminar at the Amman Chamber of Industry on how Jordan could take advantage of international trade agreements.

The seminar, organised by the Amman Chamber of Industry in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), was opened on Sunday by Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb.

During the three-day event, Jordanian businessmen and officials are expected to get a firsthand look at trade accords such as the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), the Jordan-European Union trade protocol and other trade laws and familiarise themselves with how to make the best use of the accord to their advantage.

The Italian government is financing the seminar as part of Rome's concerted approach to consolidating its trade and economic links with the Mediterranean countries. Jordan is considered a Mediterranean country under EU parameters.

In an address to the seminar on Sunday, Ali Dajani, an advisor at the Amman Chamber of Industry, noted that "although Jordan has no foothold on shores around the Mediterranean Sea, it is closely and inseparably associated with Palestine, which has a place on the shores of the common sea."

Mr. Dajani said Italy was the first country to import Jordanian phosphates and that the first international fair that the Kingdom took part in was Italy's Bari Fair.

trade, Italy should make serious efforts to increase its imports from Jordan and also help the Kingdom market its products elsewhere.

"There should be no escape from allowing Jordan more favourable facilities, and Italy should extend a helping hand towards effective amendments," to the trade agreements, he said.

Mr. Dajani also called on the European Union as a whole to accept inputs/raw materials from Arab countries, particularly members of the Arab Common Market which includes Jordan, and qualify Jordanian manufacturers to "gain exemptions whether under the GSP system or the EU-Jordan bilateral agreement."

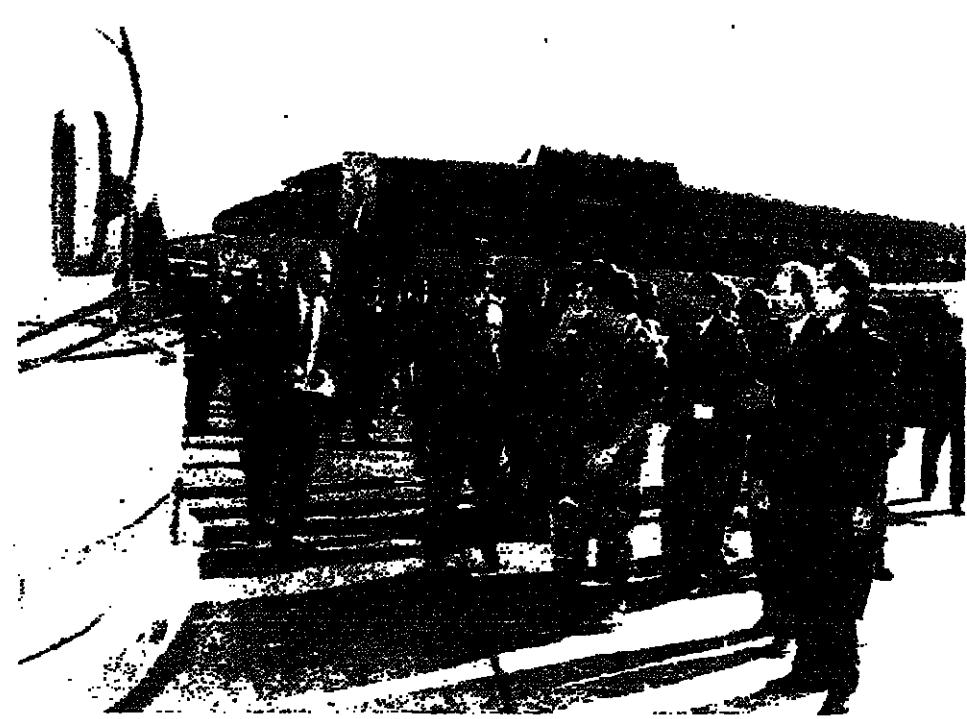
During its second day, Monday, the seminar was addressed by H.J. Rosenbaum, a senior official of the U.S. Department of Trade, whose central theme was the

technical aspects of preferential trade accords and how Jordan should seek to take advantage of such agreements.

Instead of discussing past problems, the outlook of both sides should be aimed at increasing Jordanian exports to the U.S. under the preferred preferential treatment, he told the gathering.

Also addressing the seminar on Monday was Stefano Inama and Terje Ujic, both senior experts on international preferential trade at the UNCTAD.

Tuesday's session will focus more specifically on Jordanian-Italian trade relations and technical aspects of trade accords. The roundtable, which will be held in the afternoon, will group Jordanian and Italian businessmen who "will discuss concrete proposals and possibilities of joint ventures," said Mr. Dajani.



His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Monday relief supplies to the victims of the earthquake sees off the crew of a Jordanian plane carrying which hit Japan last week (Petra photo)

Armed Forces ships medical supplies to Japan's earthquake victims

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Monday shipped a plane-load of medical supplies and blankets to help victims of the devastating earthquake which hit Japan last week.

The shipment, a gift from the Jordanian Armed Forces to the people of Japan, will be deeply appreciated by the Japanese people, said Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yoji Ikeda.

Seeing the crew off at Mar-

ka airport with His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Hussein, Mr. Ikeda thanked the Jordanian government on behalf of Tokyo, and said that Japan would not forget this noble gesture coming from Jordan which was one of a few countries that has offered real assistance to the earthquake victims in his country.

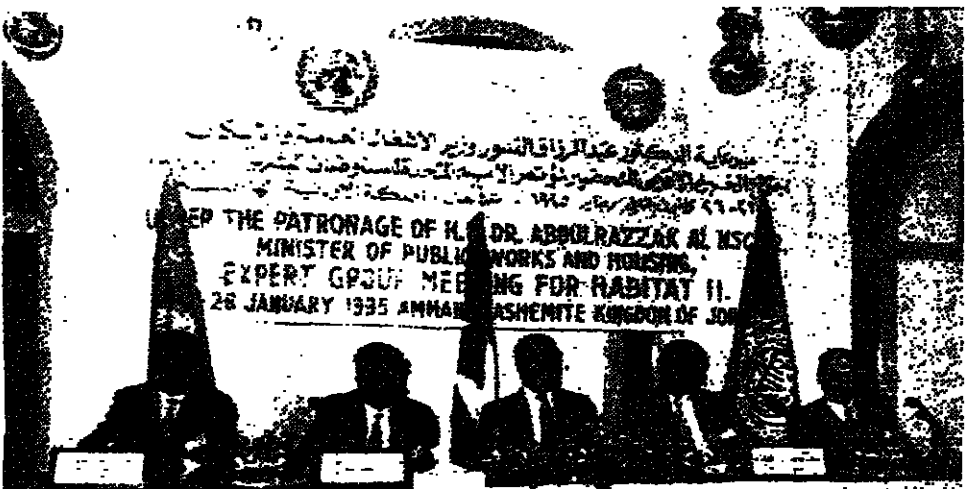
Mr. Ikeda thanked Prince Abdullah and Royal Jordanian for arranging for the transport of the shipment to Japan.

RI President Nader Dahabi was among the Jordanian officials and Japanese embassy staff to see the flight off at the airport.

Japan said on Monday at least 5,002 people were killed, 26,253 injured and 125 people were still unaccounted for after Jan. 17 earthquake, Reuters reported.

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Director General of the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) Yusuf Hiyasat (in the middle) delivers the opening address, on behalf of Public Works and Housing Minister Abdul Razzaq Ensour, at the opening of a regional experts preparatory meeting for the United Nations meeting on human settlements (Petra photo)

Experts to draft declaration on human settlements in Arab World

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab experts and officials Monday stressed the need for a draft declaration on human settlements that would incorporate Arab values and heritage.

"We should come up with a draft Arab declaration on human settlements that would take into consideration Arabic and Islamic values in all domains," said Abdul Razzaq Ensour, minister of public works and housing at the opening of the regional experts preparatory meeting for the United Nations meeting on human settlements. "It should preserve the architectural and cultural heritage of the Arab nation," said Mr. Ensour.

In his speech, delivered by Yusuf Hiyasat, director general of Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Ensour emphasised the need to come up with practical and radical solutions to urbanisation problems such as poverty, unemployment and related social problems.

"The declaration should draw up guidelines of the march for comprehensive development especially in the social field," Mr. Hiyasat said.

More than 60 experts and

U.N. representatives from the Arab World attended the first day of the conference which was held at Forte Grand Hotel. The Habitat II conference is organised by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction Council of the Arab League.

Ahmad Noah, a representative of the Arab League, said the meeting is of paramount importance because it will stress the Arab point of view.

"We should highlight the specificities of the Arab World especially in terms of our rich heritage in architecture, planning and construction. We are required to pinpoint these specificities not on biased and extremist bases, but because we should be taking from our heritage what is best and improve it," Mr. Noah said.

According to Thuraya Obaid, ESCWA's deputy executive director, centralisation in the decision-making process is one of the major problems that leads to the marginalisation of local institutions and deprives the people of effective participation. Mostly affected, she

said, are the rural settlements.

Ms. Obaid hoped the meeting will come up with a clear Arab stand vis-a-vis improving and enhancing the draft Arab declaration for human settlements.

"It is a right for every individual to have a suitable habitat," Ms. Obaid said. "Secure and sanitary settlements are a humanitarian and social necessity."

But Ali Majid Shbou, representative of the U.N. secretary general to the Habitat conference, said there are no easy and fast solutions to urban problems, particularly human settlements, "but this meeting will be another effort to formulate new recommendations towards a universal plan of action," he said.

Over the next four days, participants will discuss policies and programmes of human settlements in the Arab World; and priorities and realities of Arab urbanisation.

A draft Arab declaration on human settlements will be drawn at the end of the conference to be later submitted to the third Arab preparatory meeting. The draft will be finally endorsed by the Arab Ministers for Housing and Construction Council.

Mideast-Europe tourism workshop addresses industry growth, peace

By Cathy King Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The growth of tourism in the region in correlation with prevailing peace and increased "global traffic" were themes addressed at a tourism workshop Monday, a Ministry of Tourism official said.

The three-day workshop, entitled "Middle East-Europe Tourism Workshop," is attended by four operators from 10 European countries and government members, Ministry of Tourism officials, hoteliers, airline representatives and ground handlers from Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

The workshop was opened in Aqaba yesterday with an address delivered by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Ilah Al Khatib.

Mr. Khatib emphasised the need for Jordan's public and private tourism sectors to heed the workshop's recommendations so as to gain a better understanding of European tourism market expectations.

Sixty per cent of international arrivals in Jordan, Mr. Khatib said, originate from

Europe.

A Ministry of Tourism official in Aqaba told the Jordan Times that the four regional parties gave a "destination presentation" of their respective countries. The presentations included videos showing arrival points and touristic sites, she said.

They also addressed a plan for development, highlighting statistics which illustrated each of the countries' capacity to accommodate tourists and services available, the official added.

The workshop aims at focusing on European perceptions of the Middle East "product" and the competitive positioning of the region in global markets. It intends to develop a practical dialogue and key recommendations for action which will contribute to the increase of cooperation in Middle East tourism and economic development.

The workshop, which ends Wednesday, will host plenary sessions presented by travel industry representatives from the region and Europe. It will also involve group sessions to discuss specific topics in detail.

Refugee host countries to distribute Jordan's report to donor nations

By Rana Hussein Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Petra) — A conference of representatives of Arab countries hosting refugees which convened in Cairo last week recommended that a Jordanian report submitted to the meetings be distributed to donor governments, according to Director of the Palestinian Affairs Department Asem Ghosheh Monday.

Speaking upon his return to Amman from the meeting, Mr. Ghosheh said the Jordanian report covered the developments and the current situation in the occupied Arab lands, Israel's practices, the situation in Jerusalem, Israel's Judaisation plans, social and economic conditions in the occupied Arab territories and Jewish immigration as well as Israel's seizure of Palestinian water resources.

Delegates from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine and the Arab League, discussed ways to help the Palestinian struggle for freedom and the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace in the region, said Mr. Ghosheh.

During the week-long meetings, he said, the delegates also discussed Palesti-

nian demands that Arab Jerusalem be the capital of the Palestine state and requests to the United Nations and the world community to help implement U.N. resolutions and stop Israeli attempts at changing the character of the Arab city.

The participants also discussed Israeli settlement programmes, stressing that these plans would ruin peace efforts and cause instability. They urged the co-sponsors of the peace process to exert pressure on Israel to halt the programmes, according to Mr. Ghosheh.

The conference issued an appeal to the world community to plug the deficit in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) budget so that the agency can continue to provide social and educational assistance to the refugees, he added.

Meanwhile Fuad Al Shawwa, deputy director of social services at UNRWA, Monday said Palestinian refugees registered in Jordan currently number 1,205,493.

He added that his department has carried out several social programmes and executed 70 projects.



Health Minister Aref Bataineh Monday inspects work at Sahab Hospital after inaugurating it (Petra photo)

Ministry opens hospital in Sahab

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry Monday opened a 30-bed hospital at Sahab close to the industrial city and said plans are under way to open a 100-bed hospital in the future after which the 30-bed facility will be transformed into a health centre.

Health Minister Aref Bataineh opened the premises saying the hospital was designed first for maternity services and emergency cases. He said the new facility comprises operation theatres, maternity wards and emergency units as well as laboratories and a pharmacy.

The hospital, which will serve as an extension to the Al Bashir Hospital, has six specialists and five resident doctors, in addition to nurses and technicians.

Set up on a 2,100 square metres of land, the hospital will serve east Amman, Sahab town and Sahab Industrial City, according to Dr. Bataineh.

Al Bashir Hospital will supervise the services at the Sahab medical facility and will provide it with its needs, said the minister at the inauguration ceremony.

Fall victim dies in hospital CDD releases 1994 casualty figures

By Rana Hussein Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 35-year-old man who was listed in critical condition at Al Bashir Hospital on Saturday after falling from building under construction in Khaldia died Monday, police reports said.

According to the report, another worker, who was present during the accident, told police that Ayid Rashed was placing a scaffolding from the fourth floor of the building when he accidentally fell.

A Civil Defence Department (CDD) official told the Jordan Times Monday that a CDD rescue unit took Mr. Rashed to the hospital where he was diagnosed as having fractured his spine.

The police report said that an autopsy will be performed to determine the exact cause of death. Police said they are investigating the incident.

This is the second work-related death to be reported in the Kingdom since the beginning of this year.

On Jan. 17, a 27-year-old

Egyptian worker died of electrocution while working at Al Hassa phosphate mines. The victim pulled an electric cable and received 6,600 volts of electricity.

Last year, 23 people were killed and 13,695 were injured in work-related accidents, according to recent statistics released by the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

The SSC showed that nearly 28 per cent of the total number of injuries occurred in the engineering, metal and electrical industries, and 17 per cent in the construction sector.

Moreover, the numbers indicated that about 60 per cent of the injuries were to the workers' limbs, particularly the hands and legs.

The statistics also indicated that workshops and factories lack safety and protective equipment for their employees and proper safety instructions for machinery and equipment used by their staff.

The CDD Monday said that 825 people died during 1994 in the 29,774 incidents the CDD responded to.

According to statistics re-

leased by the department, 422 of the reported deaths were of natural causes.

According to Captain Farid Share', director of public relations at the CDD, first-aid related incidents registered the highest numbers of casualties with 718 deaths.

Capt. Share' said 81 individuals died in rescue operations and 26 were killed in fire-related incidents.

The CDD figures indicated that the months of November and December witnessed the highest number of reported casualties with 100 and 133 reported deaths. The data however did not explain why the numbers were almost double the numbers of previous months.

Meanwhile, recent statistics released by the Traffic Department indicated that 443 people were killed in the Kingdom in 26,837 road accidents which also injured 12,516.

According to Capt. Share', the CDD will hold a press conference sometime next week to give further details regarding the 1994 CDD casualty figures.

WHAT'S GOING ON

DIALOGUE

★ Dialogue with Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha at Darat Al Funun at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of Children's works (from Haya Centre drawing and painting classes) at Goethe Institute.
★ Exhibition of works by Iraqi artist Fakhr Muhammad at the Ab'ad Art Gallery.
★ Exhibition of "Arab Contemporary Art" at Mona Sandi studio, Abdoun village (Tel. 829700).
★ Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha at Darat Al Funun. Also showing another

exhibition entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdah and works by contemporary Arab artists.

★ Exhibition of works by Spanish artist Covadonga Sarragua at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

★ Educational works depicting the life of "Voltaire" at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra International Hotel in Aqaba.

★ Exhibition of abstract art by Zakaria Barakat at the Housing Bank Gallery.

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

THIRD JORDANIAN DRAMA FESTIVAL

★ Two plays (in Arabic) entitled "Coloured Rain" and "The Goat Island" respectively at 7:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

NEWS

★ ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

Save water..Every drop counts!

EMBASSY OF INDIA AMMAN REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

On the occasion of the Republic Day of India, a flag hoisting ceremony will be held on Thursday, January 26, 1995 at 10 a.m. at the premises of the Embassy of India, First Circle Jabal Amman (Opp. Mahas Hospital).

All Indians with their family members are cordially invited to attend the function.

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rbs

any. Britain and France
are due in Sarajevo for
Monday for talks with a
Bosnian government
All five envoys were
scheduled to meet in
Sarajevo in the morning
Sarajevo road reopened

In another development
arriving parties in Bos-
nia reached agreement
reopening a road from
Sarajevo to the outside
world, a senior U.N. official said.

Viktor Andreyev, head
of U.N. Protection Force
agreed to a week-long
Bosnian ceasefire in
order to allow U.N.-held
Sarajevo to be opened
to the outside world.

Humanitarian groups
including local organisations
would also be able to move
freely.

Suu Kyi
junta

and representatives of
the groups
was in full agreement
that they would approach
the military council and
other bodies to discuss
the situation.

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World News

Europe enters new era as countdown to crucial 1996 conference begins

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Union (EU) entered a new era on Monday as foreign ministers rubber stamped a new European Commission and fired the first shots in the battle to determine the Union's future shape.

The council's approval of Jacques Delors at the head of the EU's executive arm coincided with the beginning of the countdown to next year's crucial intergovernmental conference (IGC).

The sense that the EU is moving into a new phase in which 1996 will be an increasingly large was enhanced by the presence Monday of the foreign ministers of Austria, Finland and Sweden at their first general affairs council since their nations entered the union.

The importance of the upcoming conference was further stressed by France's Alain Juppe as he set out a distinct agenda for the current French presidency of the union.

EU officials expect much of this year's business to be dominated by the approach of the 1996 conference, which is due to review the progress made towards implementing the Maastricht treaty on European union and to determine the future speed and direction of European in-

tegration.

On Monday ministers held their first discussion on preparations for a conference which seems bound to become the focus for a major clash between advocates of a federal Europe and those who believe the process of integration has already gone too far.

Mr. Juppe said Paris had made completion of a council report on the groundwork for 1996 a priority of its presidency, which lasts until July.

This report is expected to be completed by April but detailed negotiations between the personal representatives of the 15 EU members will not get underway until the second half of the year.

"The present year is going to be one of thought and preparation," British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said.

"Ahead of us is a fresh range of important decisions about our future," he said.

British Prime Minister John Major has attempted to play down the significance of next year's conference, arguing that the high tide of federalism in Europe has passed and that a major leap forward in terms of the political integration of the continent was not on the cards.

But the extent to which Major is out of step with his EU partners was reflected in



Smoke drifts from buildings on Saturday in Grozny's city centre (AFP photo)

Chechen capital becomes ghost town 410,000 displaced by conflict, says UNHCR

GROZNY (AFP) — No longer the main theatre of combat, the Chechen capital Grozny has become a virtual ghost town save for a few combatants still lingering in the wreckage of a month's fighting.

Most of its population has fled, its buildings stand in ruins, burnt down in Russian bombing raids. Yet still the occasional resident appears almost bizarrely amid the rubble, trying to eke out an existence.

For the past two days, both Chechen and Russian forces have dug in, the Russians holding the centre of town around the shell of the presidential palace while their opponents defend the opposite bank of the Sunzha river.

Only small groups of Chechens fighters can be seen in the city's battered streets, sub-machine guns and rocket launchers in hand, and clad in white camouflage. Some have simple sheets wrapped round their uniforms.

In contrast to the early days of the war, the Chechens no longer move around on foot to join battle wherever they hear its tell-tale sounds. They have instead evolved into a well-organised force in which everyone knows their specific role.

"Last night we rested and we are now going to stand watch near the bridge over the Sunzha," explains 26-year-old Mohammad, his big smile revealing four gold teeth.

"It is the general staff which tells our commander where to go," he says, pointing to his section's "commander," a man barely any older than himself who has not even bothered to camouflage his black anorak.

Gingerly, they slink along building by building, stopping at each corner for a moment before running at full pelt across the road until they reach a small cellar which serves as their base.

Just 800 metres away is the front line, which bisects Grozny from north to south.

The Chechens remain defiant, insisting they will continue to fight to the end despite the loss of the palace last week.

"When I left, I told my

14-year-old son: If I die, you must take up my rifle," says Ruslan Isambayev, who took up arms Dec. 13, just two days after the Russians marched into the republic to crush Chechen independence.

But the advance of the Russians, now as determined as the Chechens to win the battle, appears inexorable. Their chief difficulty will be reaching the other side of the river. There are only four crossing points, all of them in the city centre.

With few of them believing the enemy will not get across eventually, the Chechens have taken to discussing how best to continue the combat from the mountains to the south.

Moscow's troops intend to block off the Chechen's last access to the capital at the southern end of town and should have done already, according to Russian intelligence head Sergei Stepashin. They have already taken the war to outlying villages west of Grozny.

On Sunday, the Russians blasted southeastern parts of Grozny as they have done for the past three weeks while AFP reporters saw sharpshooters on the other bank prepare to deal with anyone daring to cross the main avenues or railway line.

A mortar shell fell just metres from the Chechen's makeshift base, killing six of them. Nearby, a Russian sniper hit two women, killing one and wounding the second.

Chechen fighters, not daring to venture on to the street to recover them, instead threw over ropes to drag them in.

In the garden of one small house, dogs tore at two abandoned corpses, while in the next street, another huddled corpse lying there for several days could be seen half-covered by snow.

Yet some civilians are still braving even these conditions to stay on in the city.

One old couple shuffles past the burned wrecks of what were houses to a shelter which has been their home for the past three weeks after fetching what little food they could from their apartment.

Old Masters held secretly in Russia to be shown

WASHINGTON (AFP) — More than 100 long-missing paintings by artists such as Tintoretto and Degas will be displayed this year at Moscow's Pushkin art museum, the Washington Post reported Monday. The 132 paintings were part of two collections belonging to two Hungarian Jewish families, the Hertzs and the Hatvanys, that were seized by the Germans and then by the Soviet during World War II. The collections have been kept secretly in Russia. Addressing a conference in New York entitled The Spoils of War, Valery Kulishov, director of the Russian ministry of culture's bureau of restitutions, for the first time confirmed that Russia had the paintings, the Post reported. He said the works by Tintoretto, El Greco, Goya, Corot, Renoir and Degas would be exhibited this year at the Pushkin Museum, Moscow's largest art museum.

London cabbie wins lottery jackpot—twice

LONDON (R) — A London cab driver won this week's jackpot in Britain's national lottery twice over, the Sun newspaper said Monday. Gerry Kony, 63, submitted the winning six numbers as part of a 17-strong syndicate of "Cabbies" then, feeling lucky, he entered the same sequence of numbers on his own. His syndicate share netted him £80,000 (\$126,800) while his solo win was worth £1.37 million (\$2.17 million). This week's total jackpot drawn Saturday totalled £9.6 million (\$15.22 million).

British women drivers like fast lane

LONDON (R) — Women are more likely than men to "tail" their foot down on the accelerator and exceed the speed limit on Britain's motorways, according to a survey. Just 14 per cent of women keep under 60 mph (96 kph) on motorways, compared with 38 per cent of men, said the survey from Car Windscreen and Window Company autoglass. The speed limit on British motorways is 70 mph (113 kph).

Bald Poles stage protest, want to head key posts

WARSAW (R) — Members of Poland's fringe Bald People's Party launched a hunger strike to demand representation in the country's top echelons of power, PAP news agency said. "The protesters want the new constitution to guarantee bald people top state posts," the agency quoted Witold Slusarski, a spokesman for the protest, as saying. "This includes naming people who once had hair to head the key foreign, defence and interior ministries." The right to make appointments to the three posts is at present being disputed by President Lech Walesa and Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak, both of whom have their hair.

High-profile former murder suspect arrested for assault

LONDON (AFP) — Colin Stagg, who was acquitted of murdering a young mother in front of her toddler son, was arrested Sunday for allegedly wielding an axe at a man in the same park where the young woman was killed, police said. Mr. Stagg spent more than a year in jail awaiting trial for the murder on Wimbledon Common in south London of 23-year-old Rachel Nickell, who was stabbed to death on the common in July 1992 in front of her two-year-old son. Mr. Stagg was freed last year when a judge threw out a prosecution case built around the efforts of a policewoman posing as a sado-masochist to illicit a confession on the promise of sex. The entire case against Mr. Stagg, a 31-year-old virgin who was obsessed with the occult, was based on the controversial method of psychological profiling — building up a mental profile and looking for a suspect who fitted those characteristics. He was arrested Sunday in the company of a 26-year-old woman after a man complained that he and his 11-year-old son had been attacked by a man with an axe.

Peacekeeping force planned for Africa

HARARE (AFP) — The establishment of a peacekeeping force on the conflict-ridden African continent moved closer Monday when Britain, Canada, France and the United States began talks here with 20 African countries.

Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, chief of the defence staff in Britain, and Zimbabwean Defence Minister Moven Mahachi, co-hosts of the meeting, ruled out a standing multinational force but favoured permanent command and logistics centres.

The week-long conference in Harare follows earlier meetings in Accra and Cairo in response to a decision by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) at a summit in 1993 to set up a mechanism "for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts."

Mr. Mahachi acknowledged at a news conference after the formal opening of the talks that the OAU would be incapable of running such an organisation and said support from the United Nations would be needed.

"It is too early to expect the OAU to manage an army — it can't even manage its own administrative problems," Mr. Mahachi said.

"What we think may be feasible is to urge member states to have troops always ready to carry out any peacekeeping operations when asked for," along with the establishment of a supply base, he added.

Mr. Inge agreed that costs alone put the formation of a permanent peacekeeping force "in cloud cuckoo land," but said the establishment of "command and control orga-

Australia opposition leader fighting for survival

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's opposition leader Alexander Downer is fighting for survival after eight months at the head of the country's conservative Liberal Party.

The party is considered to be in disarray as slumping polls have showed a switch in party support from Mr. Downer to former Liberal leader John Howard, expected to challenge for the leadership by the end of January.

In what is seen as a desperate attempt to shore up support, Mr. Downer was seen lunching in the past week with John Hewson, the former leader he deposed in a party room vote in May and later sacked from his cabinet.

A Newspoll last Tuesday said only 21 per cent of respondents would prefer to have Mr. Downer as prime minister, compared with 47 per cent for Prime Minister Paul Keating, although the party held a narrow lead over the governing Labour Party.

The debacle in the Liberal Party, which forms the official opposition coalition with its junior partner, the National Party, has opened it to ridicule from opponents.

Cheryl Kermot, leader of the minority Australian Democrats, told a national party conference Saturday that the Liberals "scarcely seem relevant to national politics at the moment."

Rose Kennedy, matriarch of U.S. dynasty, dies at 104

BOSTON (R) — Rose Kennedy, matriarch of America's most famous political family, died Sunday at her home in Hyannisport, Massachusetts at the age of 104, her son, Senator Edward Kennedy said in a statement.

The cause of death was complications from pneumonia.

Mrs. Kennedy died at 5:30 p.m. EST, surrounded by friends and family, including Senator Kennedy, her only surviving son, and two of her daughters, Eunice Shriver and Jean Kennedy Smith, the current U.S. ambassador to Ireland.

"Mother passed away peacefully today," said Senator Kennedy. "She had a long and extraordinary life, and we loved her deeply. To all of us in the Kennedy and Fitzgerald families, she was the most beautiful Rose of all."

Rose Kennedy, who lost two sons to assassins' bullets but never shed a tear in public, lived a long life of both triumph and tragedy, four of her nine children having died violently. Her eldest son Joseph Jr. was killed in World War II, daughter Kathleen died in a 1948 plane crash. President John Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas in 1963 and in 1968 Senator Robert F. Kennedy was murdered in Los Angeles as he campaigned for president.

Mrs. Kennedy would have turned 105 on July 22 this year.

President Bill Clinton extended his condolences on Sunday to the Kennedy family.

"Very few Americans have endured as much personal sacrifice for their country as Rose Kennedy. She played an extraordinary role in the life of an extraordinary family," Mr. Clinton said in a statement read by White House spokesman Arthur Jones.

"Hillary and I extend our deep felt sympathy to the Kennedy family," he said.

She lived the last years of her life quietly in the Kennedy family compound on Cape Cod, a virtual invalid, unable even to speak. Concern among family members had mounted recently over her frail condition, and last week she was reported to be experiencing respiratory problems.

Also present at her bedside when she died were former peace corps director Sargent Shriver, Eunice's husband, Robert Kennedy's widow, Ethel Kennedy, and Victoria Reggie Kennedy, Senator Edward Kennedy's second wife.



This May 25, 1991 file photo shows Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy with her nurse and a security guard during an afternoon walk around the family compound in Hyannisport (AFP photo)

Indonesian opposition party hits out at rivals

JAKARTA (R) — Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of Indonesia's late President Sukarno, said Monday the mysterious disappearance of a key figure in her PDI political party shows how much a big opposition group is feared in Indonesia.

The four-day disappearance of Indonesia Democratic Party's (PDI's) Secretary General Alex Litaay, apparently part of a continuing power struggle within the party, is an example of the heavy pressures on independent politicians, she said.

The disappearance coincided with claims by a rival board chairman that Ms. Litaay, who is believed to be a loyal supporter of Ms. Megawati and a key party organiser, had defected.

But Ms. Megawati, who said she finally made contact with Mr. Litaay Sunday, said he had not defected. She said Mr. Litaay was emotional and appeared to have been under pressure although she declined to give details about his disappearance.

One senior party member said Mr. Litaay had been abducted by Indonesian military officers and rebel party activists.

"There are elements trying to rattle PDI, both internally and externally. The case of Alex is one concrete example that there are unspecified interests who do not want to see PDI become big," Ms. Megawati told Reuters in an interview.

"It seems he was under some pressure. (But) we both agreed that we will not reveal the reason he could not be contacted."

"But I have my own assumptions (about his disappearance) because the secretary general's position within PDI is quite strategic. Everyone can draw their own conclusions from this," said Ms. Megawati, a 47-year-old mother of three.

The PDI, which has 16 million members, is one of three political parties allowed to operate in Indonesia

The rule of the horn

By Cathy King

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein recently addressed the urgent need to tackle traffic problems, many people wondered where to start the process.

The chaotic weavings of traffic from the inside out, the outside in, the mayhem at roundabouts (who gives way anyhow?), and innumerable other law violations frequently occurring, suggest little appreciation of basic rules of the road.

This is a recognised problem. But it appears that drivers have devised a substitute method (albeit inadequate) of gaining right of way and generally ruling the road.

The method: The rule of the horn.

My first experience "real" horn-hooting was during a year I spent in Cairo.

In a guide book to Egypt, a contributor troubled himself to identify the pattern of honks used for particular situations, like patterns of flashed lights in morse code.

Since horn-use is as prevalent here as it is in Cairo, a similar code may be derived.

Horn-honking heralds marriage convoys, but it is also used indiscriminately for almost everything else.

Approaching a junction necessitates one short "purr," two short ones mean "move over, please." Repetitive honking shouts "get out of the way," a harsh, long and aggressive blast tells of a driver who pulled out mindlessly, with-

out a single glance; but, gentle and repetitive ones sing "pretty woman, walking down the street."

Taxi and "service" drivers are incessant horn-honkers.

If walking in the opposite direction down a one-way street, it matters not, they will still try to entice you into their vacant cabs. A little preoccupied, you would almost oblige, for the hooting says you should.

Strange as that is, the drivers sometimes honk when the cab is full.

This guide to horn-use, just as the other one proved, does not accommodate the hundreds of horn-honking combinations at hand.

Horn-blowing seems to dictate a desired response, and has supplanted rules and regulations that may otherwise prove safer.

The unpredictability of "other" drivers encourages all to adopt the easily recognised horn-pounding habit of announcing one's intention (I'm coming past on the inside even though it is possible you're turning right from the middle lane).

As a result, horn-honking has become the rule of the road and an inherent reflex too. The former, not the latter, is the issue.

So blow your horn, if it cannot be helped, and revise the highway code to stop the carnage on the roads.

The writer is a member of the Jordan Times editorial staff.



A Hutu suspected of robbery is being chased out of a refugee camp in Zaire (AFP photo)

Worrying tranquillity

Zairean guns, expulsions help pacify camps

By Terry Leonard
The Associated Press

GOMA, Zaire — Peace has come suddenly, unexpectedly to the Rwandan refugee camps that blight the verdant landscape of eastern Zaire.

It came, apparently, from the blazing guns of Zairean soldiers, from the arrest and expulsion to Rwanda of troublemakers and from subtle changes in the way aid agencies manage the camps.

Acts of brutality and intimidation so common two months ago are almost unheard of now. Aid workers no longer are menaced by the defeated Hutu soldiers and extremist militiamen blamed for much of the genocidal bloodbath in neighbouring Rwanda.

While welcome, the tranquillity came so swiftly that it has left some uneasy about what changes it might signal.

"For the last month and a half it has been pretty quiet, too quiet I would say," said Joel Boutroue,

the head of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Goma.

Rwanda's former political and military leaders, accused of orchestrating the killing of an estimated 500,000 people, have too much at stake to watch the refugees, their only bargaining chip, drift home in increasing numbers.

Convincing the approximately 750,000 refugees around Goma to stay remains key to the exiled former regime's strategy to destabilise the new government in Kigali.

For months, former soldiers and militiamen conducted a campaign of terror in the camps to keep refugees in Zaire. Some who attempted to return home or who even advocated going back to Rwanda were brutally killed.

Early in November, 16 aid agencies threatened to withdraw from the camps unless there was an immediate effort to improve security. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali re-

commended sending troops to restore order. The Security Council balked, but expressed alarm at the tensions and said former soldiers and militiamen "may be preparing for an armed invasion of Rwanda."

Zairean troops killed at least 15 refugees on Nov. 25 at Kitala camp north of Goma. The next day, Zairean officials expelled 31 Hutu officials of the former government suspected of being behind the violence and intimidation in the camps. All of them were turned over to Rwandan authorities at the border and imprisoned.

Aid workers said the Zairean gunfire and expulsions sent a chilling message to militiamen and former soldiers.

"The Kitala shooting ... dampened the enthusiasm of the young men and bandits and diminished any kind of authority they had on the population," said Mr. Boutroue.

Normand Lessard said that at Kibumba camp aid workers are now giving food directly to families. Mr. Boutroue said UNHCR is trying to involve women more in the distribution of supplies. Both steps are aimed at diminishing the roles of former soldiers and militiamen.

Intimidation continues, but on a lower, less violent level.

Mr. Boutroue and Nina Nobel of the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said returning refugees are taunted, jeered and called traitors by angry crowds and their possessions are sometimes stolen.

The exiled government's emerging strategy seems aimed at causing unrest inside Rwanda to undermine the new government and convince refugees it is too dangerous to return.

Maj. Gen. Guy Tounsi, the U.N. military commander in Kigali, said there was strong reason to

believe former soldiers have begun a well-planned insurgency operation into Rwanda.

Mr. Boutroue said he believes former soldiers are conducting cross-border raids into Rwanda from the Goma area, but he cannot prove it.

Matthieu Ndirumpatse, president of the former ruling party, denied the government in exile is preparing a military campaign.

"We want negotiations, but the people now in Kigali won't talk to us. They consider us all killers," said Mr. Ndirumpatse, a lawyer identified by the human rights group African Watch as one of the masterminds of the Rwandan massacres.

Rwanda's defeated army is considered too weak, demoralised and disorganised to amount a serious threat to retake the country. But Mr. Ndirumpatse suggested the exiled leaders could have more limited military goals.

"If the refugees are strong enough to cross the border and control two dis-

tricts, they (the government) will forget about that court," said Mr. Ndirumpatse, referring to the international war crimes tribunal. "They will talk about negotiations."

Whatever the reason, only a small handful of the refugees in Goma attempt to return home. Of the 800 that signed up last week to return, only 200 actually did.

Most refugees are too frightened of the victorious Tutsi rebels to return home. And with the new tranquillity in the camps, few want to risk returning. Some say they believe propaganda that the new government is killing anyone who tries to go home.

"People are eating and drinking and singing in the camps," said Bernard Munyanziza, a refugee at Kitala camp. "If people want to go back to Rwanda they are free to go. But I am a Hutu. I can't go back. Every Hutu who tries to go back is immediately killed."

Jordan, PNA plan new era

(Continued from page 1)

King Hussein and Mr. Arafat aims at resolving outstanding issues between Jordan and the PNA.

Dr. Shaath told the Egyptian Voice of Arabs radio that the meetings in Amman were aimed at preparing for the two leaders' meeting in "order to pave the way for establishing close relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples."

He voiced hopes that Mr. Arafat's visit to Amman, the first since the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman returned to the self-rule areas in July would open the way for comprehensive Arab reconciliation.

Dr. Shaath said trilateral Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian meetings being held in Cairo on Palestinian refugees also aim to pave the way for holding talks with

Israel on the displaced Palestinians who fled Gaza and the West Bank in the 1967 war.

Both sides, which have failed to produce concrete results in similar meetings over the past two years, hammered on a new theme of realism.

"We hope to put these results in front of Arafat and King Hussein at their next meeting," Yasser Abed Rabbo, head of the PNA delegation, said after the first round of talks on Sunday.

"There is no disparity," said Mr. Abed Rabbo. "We have agreed to start looking, in a practical spirit, to reach a realistic and practical agreement which can be implemented and we hope to have positive results in the next two days."

Water — how safe is it?

(Continued from page 1)

pipelines, especially due to interrupted pumping," says Dr. Salameh.

Due to limitations in the quantities of available water, pumping cannot be continuous and therefore when it is stopped, depressurisation results in the movement of any water existing around the pipes into the case of corrosion, explains Dr. Salameh. The risk of contamination is intensified should there be any leakage in neighbouring waste water pipelines.

"The risk factor, however, is minimal, as waste water pipes do not normally lie in the vicinity of the drinking water network and are therefore far enough to guarantee that the two types of water do not mix," Dr. Gedeon says.

The corroded and leaking pipes is a problem that is currently being resolved. "By the time the overall network replacement project which was started last year is accomplished, the risk of contamination will be minimised," says Dr. Salameh.

Dr. Gedeon said the Water Authority directs special attention to monitoring and controlling the quality of water on a daily basis by collecting samples from pumping stations, reservoirs and the network. "We collect on average 1,000 samples per month and perform all the tests of compliance with WHO regulations. We also regularly assess the efficiency of water treatment processes," says Dr. Gedeon.

Dr. Gedeon does not recommend domestic filters as they eliminate the

amounts of safe residual chlorine required to kill any regrowing bacteria as an extra precaution. "These filters can be self-defeating at times," he says.

The origin of people's uncertainties about the water quality arose from an unfortunate incident of contamination that occurred seven years ago, explains Dr. Gedeon. "Naturally people are generally resistant to change, particularly when it concerns ideas or impressions," Dr. Gedeon says. Moreover, some doctors are more inclined to relate certain health problems to the readily available and rather "easy" factor of water than go through the complexities of a proper diagnosis, according to Dr. Gedeon.

For instance, many people wrongly relate the prevalence of kidney stones among residents of Jordan to the quality of water without looking further into other possible causes or undergoing a thorough analysis of all factors concerned. "Kidney stones come as an outcome of the style of life more than anything else," maintains Dr. Gedeon. Should the water be contaminated, an epidemic will plague members of all the homes through which the contaminated pipeline passes, and no such incidents have been reported for many years," Dr. Gedeon affirms.

"Our responsibility, however, does not exceed the point where the water reaches the domestic meter. Any defects in the domestic water tanks or the piping system at home must be adjusted by the inhabitants," says Dr. Gedeon. Up to the point where the water reaches the homes, "the quality of the water is one of the best in the region. There is no point in using filters or boiling the water. I myself drink it as it comes out straight from the tap," Dr. Gedeon says.

Mubarak:

(Continued from page 1)

benefit to you or to any other country which supports these groups."

No date was given for the interview, which the New Yorker said took place in Mr. Mubarak's Palace at Heliopolis.

The Egyptian president dismissed the rebellious Gamaa Al Islamiya as "not Islamic. None of them are. They have nothing to do with Islam. They want to seize power, pure and simple and who are they? belly dancers and drummers from the slums."

The same article contains an interview with Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an Egyptian currently on trial in New York for an alleged plan to bomb the United Nations, Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters and other buildings in New York and tunnels under the Hudson River to New Jersey.

Without offering support, Sheikh Abdul Rahman — interviewed in jail — claimed Egypt is ripe for rebellion.

"You've seen disaffection all over Egypt."

"We control the student unions at the universities, yet when lawyers demonstrate, they are beaten back with tear gas and clubs."

"We control the student Unions at the universities, yet the representatives are being carted off to jail..."

Rabin wants total separation

(Continued from page 1)

Muslim fundamentalism and some countries in the region," he added, accusing Syria of sheltering groups fighting against Israel.

Hundreds of anti-government protesters shouting "Death to the Arabs"

— "Blue collar workers have been striking more than ever before. Everyone, from the extreme right to the extreme left, has lost faith in this regime on every level of society, people are in conflict with this regime."

In answer to a question, Sheikh Abdul Rahman denied he ordered the death of Nobel Prize-winning author Naguib Mahfouz, 83, who barely survived a stabbing in the neck in October of last year.

Mr. Mahfouz wrote a book called "Children of Gebelawi," which Sheikh Abdul Rahman reportedly compared with Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses," which resulted in an Islamic death warrant or "fatwa" for Mr. Rushdie from Iran.

The New Yorker reported the Sheikh said of the Arab World's only Nobel laureate in literature:

"Islamic law calls on these people to repent and if they do not, they will be killed."

Sheikh Abdul Rahman told the New Yorker:

"Naguib Mahfouz has been around for years, and if our youth wanted to attack him they would have done it long ago. Naguib Mahfouz is not a target for the Islamists. As I said before, we know where he sits, where he walks..."

Mr. Mubarak told the magazine the youth who stabbed the author knew nothing about the holy Koran. "He was simply paid to do what he did. It's all a matter of money."

Europe media shine a light into every corner of 'foreign' politicians' lives

But some are starting to expose their own

By Arthur Allen

The Associated Press
BONN — The newspaper Bild, the giant of Europe's tabloids, lades out a frothy soup of topless models, bottomless scandals, horoscopes of the rich and ridiculous, disasters in all their gory glory.

The Duchess of York's sucked toes, Claudia Schiffer's insured breasts, Prince Charles' hairy chest, the headless suicide on the train tracks. Bild had them all in the 4.3 million copies it prints every day.

One thing Bild doesn't generally reveal, however, is the peccadilloes of German politicians. Its 700 reporters collect plenty of dirty linen, but Bild stashes it in the file cabinets — in the national interest, says senior editor Kai Diekmann.

"If you shine a light into every corner of a politician's life, as they do in the U.S., no intelligent person will run for office," Diekmann said. "By withholding the information, we're helping maintain the high standards of Germany's political culture."

Anyone who has read Bild's slash-and-burn attacks may take Diekmann's judiciousness with a grain of salt. Bild has no qualms about publishing dirt on the British royal family, for example.

But when it comes to their own political class, the news media in Germany

and elsewhere in continental Europe generally follow the rule that some "character" traits are none of the public's business.

A survey by German and American professors found that half of German and Italian journalists polled agreed with the statement, "journalists should not explore the private lives of public officials." That compared to 11 per cent of American journalists and 17 per cent of those in Britain.

The difference grows out of the deep-seated English and American concerns with morality in politics, said Thomas Patterson, a Syracuse University professor who helped conduct the study.

The French media unanimously condemned Paris Match for breaking a long-held taboo against reporting on the private lives of politicians when it revealed in November that President Francois Mitterrand had a 20-year-old, out-of-wedlock daughter.

Match said the woman had become a quasi-public figure, often appearing in public with her father, Mr. Mitterrand, who is 78, ill and nearing the end of his long career, didn't plan to sue under France's strict privacy laws.

His quote in Le Monde's headline — "so what?" — said it all.

The French do not think marital fidelity has any

bearing on public trust. An item that would have been tabloid fodder for weeks in Britain vanished quickly.

"Let he who is without sin cast the first stone," the newspaper Le Figaro said in a swipe at "Anglo-Saxon puritanism."

But despite the sneering at American and British news media, changes are evident in Europe. New private TV networks and glossy magazines, fighting for new markets, do not hesitate to bring sex into politics.

In their eagerness for exposure, some politicians will expose themselves. On Schreier-makers Live, a talk show on Germany's private SAT-1 network, political leaders volunteer to be hooked up to a toy lie detector and answer questions about their sexual interests.

"People are crazy for sex gossip, and the competition brings it out," said Matthias Prinz, a Hamburg libel lawyer. "There's a gentlemen's agreement not to write about (Chancellor Helmut) Kohl's sex life, for example, but when someone breaks that rule watch everyone else follow."

A recent rule bender was the flashy Tango magazine. In its first issue, in September, it reported that Mr. Kohl's 61-year-old wife, Hannelore, had been "deeply injured... like many others at the time" during her flight from the Soviet army as a child in

1945. This was widely read to mean she had been raped, although the magazine did not explicitly say that. Mrs. Kohl's aide, Michael Roik, said that was not true.

In November, Bild and a few other tabloids published a nude photograph of Damag Woehrl, a conservative member of parliament. It was taken from a 1971 film in which she and some other Bavarian youngsters frolicked sans lederenhosen and dirndls.

"Will she resign?" Bild screamed. The question provided the justification for the photograph, but it wasn't serious. No one in Germany was shocked.

"The only dirty thing is the guy who sent copies of the videotape to Bild," said Lieselott Blunck, a Social Democratic opponent of Ms. Woehrl in parliament.

In Italy, land of the paparazzi, the Milan newspaper La Voce apologised after being attacked for running photos of Letizia Moratti, president of the state television network, with her dress hiked up in an unguarded moment at a parliamentary hearing.

The Norwegian media are even more respectful. When Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland's son died in 1992, only the tabloid Sondag-Sondag printed what she asked the newspapers to hush up — that her son had committed suicide.

Budget deficit raises concern in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese parliament began debating the 1995 state budget Monday amid concerns about the proposed 43 per cent deficit and the government's ability to hold to the projection.

Parliament must approve the 5,500 billion Lebanese lira (\$3.3 billion) draft — which forecasts income at 43 per cent of expenditure — by Jan. 31 or the government may promulgate it by decree.

Economists and bankers say they fear that spending and the deficit will surge beyond the budget forecast as they did in 1994, and this could

cause inflation and bring pressure on the Lebanese lira.

Many economists and financiers say stabilisation of the lira is the main achievement of billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri in his 27 months in office.

The 43 per cent deficit proposed for the 1995 budget compares with a 45 per cent deficit approved in the 1994 budget law.

But economists say the 1994 deficit actually ended up as at least 53 per cent and may have been over 58 per cent as the cash-strapped government continued post-

war reconstruction.

They say a similarly large ballooning of the 1995 deficit beyond the official forecast could cause inflationary and currency problems.

The parliamentary debate was expected to be tough after the house finance committee, which has studied the draft for weeks, also said it expected 1994 expenditure and the deficit to exceed the budget forecast.

The issue could provide a battleground between Mr. Hariri and parliament speaker Nabih Berri, who is seen as his main political rival. Many

members of parliament dislike the government's policy of mounting domestic and foreign debt and are critical of Mr. Hariri.

In a report to be read to the house, the finance committee said neither the 1995 budget draft nor the budgets for the past two years reflected real spending.

The committee blamed the 1993 and 1994 discrepancies on the government's use of additional credits to finance its activities and said it expected "even more" use of such credits in 1995.

It also criticised the budget

draft as "structurally weak," saying public sector salaries and social welfare payments plus debt servicing totalled more than the entire proposed 1995 income of 3,150 billion lira (\$1.92 billion).

The report echoed a weekend complaint by Francois Basile, president of the Lebanese Banks Association, that past official forecasts of budget surpluses within a few years were "unreal."

Mr. Basile said that future heavy government borrowing for reconstruction raised the possibility of monetary instability.

Economists say Japan quake worries overdone

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo shares dived nearly six per cent Monday and the yen weakened as last week's earthquake sent growing shockwaves through the Japanese economy.

But private economists said investor worries were probably overdone.

The key Nikkei share average plunged 1,054 points, or 5.60 per cent, to 17,785 — its lowest in more than a year.

As shares slid, the yen also fell against the dollar and the mark. In late Tokyo trade, the dollar climbed to around 100.15 yen, its highest level since October 1993.

Analysts said investors had three main fears — that quake damage would balloon well beyond initial estimates, that the fallout would cause tremors in Japan's already debt-ridden financial sector, and that a long-sought economic recovery would not materialise as soon as had been hoped.

The tremor, the worst to hit Japan in over 70 years,

has left 5,002 dead, 26,253 injured and 300,000 people homeless. Most of the casualties and damage were in the port of Kobe.

Tadayo Homma, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) branch manager from Kobe's neighbour city of Osaka, gave an unusually explicit and negative assessment of the economic impact of the earthquake.

"It is inevitable that negative effects on Japan's economic recovery will emerge (from the earthquake) in many respects," he told a news conference.

He said the central bank saw no risk, yet that Japan's financial system would collapse. "There has been no major, systemic risk (to the Japanese financial system) so far," he said.

Foreign investors have become particularly jittery.

"Foreigners are concerned. They look at the Los Angeles quake and remember how badly everybody got it wrong," said David Thredgold, financial analyst

at Barclays de Zoete Wedd (Securities) Japan. "All the initial estimates were so wide of the mark that ... people are just prepared to add another nought on the end (of existing estimates)," he said.

"Economists said last week that the earthquake would dampen economic growth in the first one or two quarters of the calendar year but was likely to bolster growth thereafter as demand rose on the back of reconstruction efforts."

On Monday, many clung to that general view, although some said it could take longer before any positive impact emerged.

"We haven't changed our view of the impact," said Merrill Lynch Japan economist Ron Bevaqua. "We see one quarter negative — one per cent of GDP (gross domestic product) and in the April-June quarter (public and private spending) will outweigh the loss in production capacity and GDP."

Share market analysts said that while the market plunge was triggered by pessimism about the quake, much of the root cause lay within the market. "The outlook for the market was not good through the end of March and the earthquake was a trigger for selling," said a Daiwa Research Institute economist.

Still, confidence in the recovery has been shaken.

"The market has basically priced itself to get two per cent growth and any surprises were expected to be on the upside," said Kenneth Courtis, chief economist at Deutsche Bank Capital Markets (Asia). "People were keeping their fingers crossed that that would happen ... but my sense is that we're getting a reassessment of that."

Jittery investors battered bank shares Monday, worried that the already debt-laden sector would suffer as companies and individuals affected by the quake failed to repay loans.

Fears of higher interest

rates due to greater demand for capital to rebuild the quake-hit region dealt bank shares another blow.

Financial analysts said, however, most banks' bottom lines were unlikely to suffer greatly.

"I don't think what's going on in the market is a fair reflection of the true impact on banks and insurers. It's overreacting, but it reflects a lack of information and investors' continued nervousness about the pace of recovery," said Brian Waterhouse, analyst at James Capel Pacific Ltd.

The dollar rallied on the share price plunge, which also strengthened financial markets' belief that the Bank of Japan would be forced to keep a loose grip on the money market.

"This activity (in the currency market) has nothing really to do with the dollar and everything to do with the yen, which has fallen in sympathy with stocks," a U.S. bank dealer said.

Russia reforms adrift, West must help — minister

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's deputy finance minister warned Monday that reforms were drifting amid political and economic uncertainty over Chechnya and said the West must give money to the Russian to save President Boris Yeltsin.

Sergei Aleksashenko said: "We are floating. No one can tell you the direction of Russia's economic policy today."

The West was "hostage" to Russian policy, declared Mr. Aleksashenko, one of the few reformers left in Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's conservative government.

He said in an interview that instability over the military drive to crush secessionist Chechen rebels could hit productivity, free-market reforms backed by Western funds.

"We have parliamentary elections this year. There will be political instability. It's easy to predict who wins elections at times of political in-

stability — fascists and communists."

Elections to both chambers of parliament are scheduled for December. Presidential elections are set for June 1996.

Mr. Aleksashenko said: "Economic and political instability is not the best of conditions needed ahead of presidential elections. The West is the hostage to Russian policy."

Mr. Aleksashenko said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the West should relax purse strings if they wanted a stable Russia.

"Not only the IMF, but the West in general have no other choice," Mr. Aleksashenko said. Otherwise, he said, "the budget will be unbalanced, there will be political instability."

The war in Chechnya is the latest in a series of setbacks to a credible, deflationary economic policy and a tight 1995 budget Moscow

says will secure a \$6.25 billion IMF standby loan.

A top IMF delegation in Moscow has been trying to guess which way the economy will swing amid parliamentary demands to change an already-diluted 1995 budget to include the cost of the Chechnya war.

Parliament, packed with deputies hostile to reform, refused to pass the 1995 budget Friday. Its approval is one condition for the release of the IMF standby loan.

Parliament's budget deficit of 73.2 trillion rubles (\$18.5 billion) compares to a planned government gap of 71.7 trillion (\$18.1 billion), or 7.7 per cent of gross domestic product.

Mr. Aleksashenko said military action in Chechnya had cost the government 800 billion rubles (\$200 million) so far, but was unlikely to increase state spending much in the short term.

"I can't imagine our eco-

nomy being more militarised than it is today," he said.

The real cost of Chechnya would be political instability, which would undermine the government's credibility on markets.

"Up to now, the war is not costing us much. The price of political instability is bigger. How can you measure the cost of political instability?" he asked.

Moscow is already awash with rumours of government measures to reassert state control over key sectors of the economy.

Reform critics by Mr. Chernomyrdin and Mr. Yeltsin have failed to convince Russia's financial markets, driving the ruble lower and forcing the state to offer higher yields on domestic debt.

The ruble has fallen 11.2 per cent against the dollar so far this year, outpacing 10.4 per cent inflation.

"If inflation is a major indicator of reform, it means

we have no reform now. For months we've been talking. We're just wasting time," Mr. Aleksashenko said.

The Russian budget already assumes foreign credits of \$12 billion and bankers say Russia may have to use inflationary central bank loans if Western cash does not materialise.

An IMF decision to hold up loans to Russia could scare off Western investors and amount to a no-confidence vote in Mr. Yeltsin.

"Yeltsin has almost lost everything," reformist economist Andrei Illarionov said. "The world should understand this, just the way it was with former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev."

"Reforms should be powered from the inside. It is impossible to reinforce reforms in Russia by giving money. The world does not have that much money," he told Reuters.

Iran faces new monetary crisis

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran is in the throes of a new monetary crisis, prompted by falls in the value of the rial, a sharp rise in the price of gold, the emergence of a black market for the dollar and skyrocketing inflation.

In a bid to ward off hard currency fluctuations, the government has frozen the rate of the dollar.

But the rial has continued its downward slide and lost 15 per cent of its value against other major foreign currencies in the past three weeks.

While allowing other major currencies to float freely against the rial, the central bank fixed the dollar at 2,680 rials, triggering the emergence of a black market for the greenback.

It is the first time a black market has been created in the hard currency market since economic liberalisation programmes were launched following the 1980-1988 war against Iraq.

The dollar is now trading at around 3,300 rials on the black market and even 3,430 if the money is to be delivered abroad through foreign bank transfers.

The freezing of the dollar has also provoked a sharp

rise in the price of gold which has gained more than 30 per cent in value since early January.

This sharp rise is a consequence of a rush by small investors and speculators to obtain the precious metal as an insurance against soaring inflation.

The demand for gold has also been rising because many investors avoid the risk of acquiring dollars — an alternative form of insurance against inflation — on the black market.

"The financial politics of Iran is incoherent and incomprehensible," said a European expert here Sunday.

Two years after adopting a single rate for exchange and scrapping its multi-tier system, Iran now has six different rates again: A subsidised rate of 70 rials to the dollar, a floating rate of 1,750 rials, a rate reserved for exports and for foreign companies put at 2,345, a "free" rate of 2,680, the black market rate and the transfer abroad rate of 3,430.

Western experts in Tehran believe the rial will continue its downward slide and the government resort to de-

valuing the currency.

Iran expects a reduction in its hard currency earnings this year due to the scheduled repayment of short and medium-term foreign debts of some \$30 billion.

The payment would eat away as much as \$7 billion of the country's \$16-\$17 billion hard currency earnings each year until the end of the century.

The collapse of the rial has also provoked a sharp increase in the price of goods, especially foodstuffs: 10 per cent rise on meat, 20 per cent on cheese and rice and up to 50 per cent on cooking oil, egg and poultry.

This rise has provoked strong criticism and discontent among the country's 60-million population, especially as inflation is running at an annual rate of above 60 per cent in contrast to bank deposit interest rates of 15 per cent.

"The people are critical of the soaring prices. The government should keep its promises. Why isn't the fight against inflation taken seriously?" Jomhuri Islami newspaper, close to Islamic hardliners, asked last week.

British economy grows apace, sparking rate rise fears

LONDON (R) — Britain's economy grew at a pace not seen for six years in the last quarter of 1994, official figures showed Monday, and financial analysts said this made an interest rate rise soon even more likely.

Gross domestic product (GDP), the total value of goods and services produced, rose by a preliminary four per cent in the last three months compared with the final quarter of 1993.

The growth rate is down slightly from the 4.1 per cent rate recorded in the third quarter of 1994 and the 4.3 per cent of the second, figures from the Central Statistical Office showed.

The economy last grew at this pace in the final quarter of 1988. Economists have said that, historically, the economy can grow at a rate of two to 2-1/4 per cent without strains emerging.

But the British Treasury, welcoming the slowdown in the year-on-year GDP rate in the new figures, said the

growth rate had become more sustainable since the first half of 1994.

Analysts were sceptical that the reduction in the pace of growth would be enough to prevent the economy from overheating as demand outstripped production capacity and inflation would be forced higher.

They said the new figures revived concern that the authorities would have to boost the cost of borrowing to reduce the rate at which the economy was expanding.

Base bank lending rates are currently at 6-1/4 per cent.

"This leaves us on track for an early February base-rate rise," said London-based economist Marian Bell at the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The next interest-rate policy meeting by Britain's monetary authorities will be held on Feb. 2.

Most economists predict that Bank of England Governor Eddie George and Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke, who has the

final say on base rates, will raise rates by half a percentage point. They expect the authorities to act sooner rather than later to ensure inflation does not rise any further.

First signs that price pressures were mounting came last week when both the retail price index and factory gate prices showed an acceleration in the rate of increase.

In addition, according to labour-market figures, unemployment was still falling rapidly in December — another sign of unabated economic strength, the economists said.

Politically, Chancellor Clarke could also be tempted to push the cost of borrowing higher soon to ensure there is enough distance between an unpopular rate rise and elections, which, some commentators speculate, might be held as early as 1996.

However, the ruling Conservatives' unpopularity might persuade Mr. Clarke to hold off for now, others say.

Zaire inflation drops to 6,000%

KINSHASA (R) — Zaire annual inflation fell to 6,030 per cent in 1994 from 8,828 per cent the year before, the United States embassy economic unit here said.

Local analysts welcomed the decline but said it still left battling Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo a long way to go to reach his 1995 target of 20 per cent.

Elected by parliament last June to head a government of national unity, Mr. Kengo has vowed to re-ignite the civil service and stamp out endemic corruption.

He won a major battle when a decree by President Mobutu Sese Seko ratified Mr. Kengo's choice of his party comrade Djambaleka

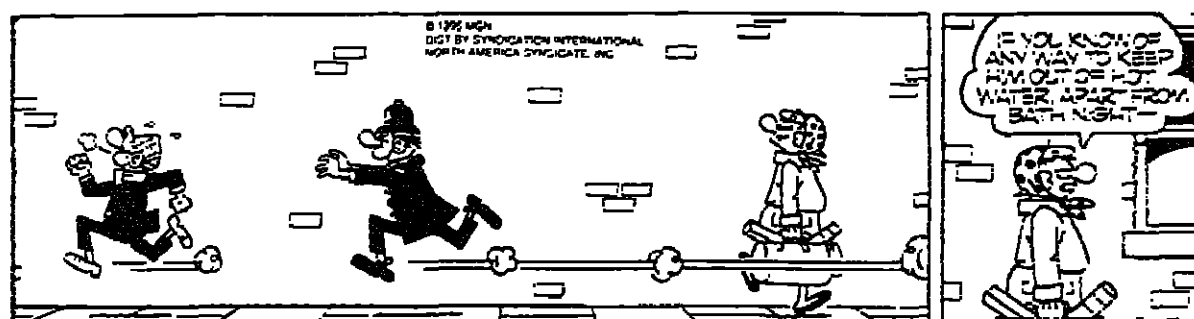
Okitongo as new governor of Zaire's central bank.

Soon after taking office Mr. Kengo suspended Mobutu-appointed governor Ndiang Kaboul. Mr. Mobutu finally agreed to dismiss him in November after an audit found he made huge unauthorised payments in defiance of a government freeze on the bank's transactions.

Peanuts



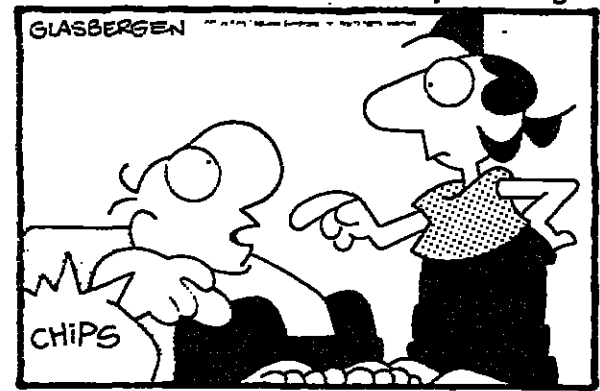
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

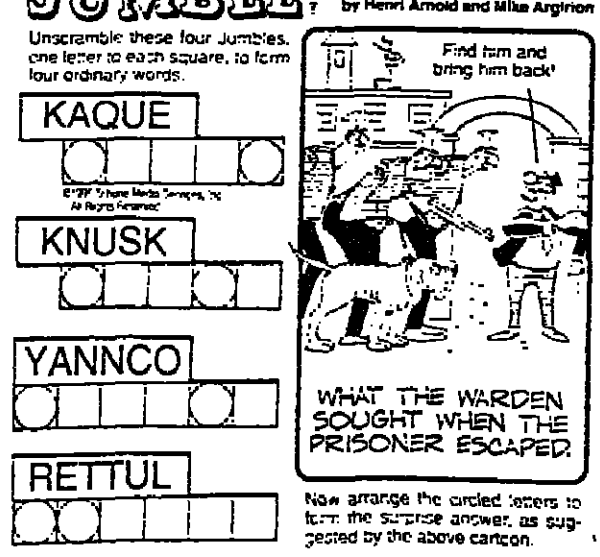


THE BETTER HALF



"Potato chips help me lose weight. They crunch so loud I can't hear the other snacks calling me into the kitchen!"

JUMBLE



Print answer here: A _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PANSY GOING UNIQUE VANISH

Answer: How the busy bee's job left him — SPRING

Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia B. Hovavell



8 Notable time
9 Rites over
10 Electrical unit
11 Period of prosperity
12 Address
13 Youngster
14 Roman tyrant
15 Family circle member
16 Stock term
17 Think
18 Shelters
19 Cat
20 Assesses
21 Assessment
22 Crowded
23 Medical visitation
24 Part of n.b.
25 Coastal area
26 Door handle
27 Taut
28 Wipe person
29 Uncomplicated

52 Adjust
53 Reveal
54 Inlet
55 Aard
56 Totals: abbr.

57 Belgian river
58 Leg part
59 Trenches
60 Former husband

Jordan Times Tel 667171

Sainz takes charge in Monte Carlo Rally

MONTE CARLO (R) — Spaniard Carlos Sainz took charge in the Monte Carlo Rally after his British team mate Colin McRae had a spill on the second timed stage of the season's opening event Monday.

The right choice of tyres and superb driving on the twisting roads of the Ardeche hills allowed Sainz and his Subaru to build a lead of 25 seconds over the Ford Escort of last year's winner Francois Delecour of France after the first two timed stages.

McRae was fastest in the day's first test on dry roads from St. Pierreville to Antraigues, with the Spaniard five seconds slower. But in the second timed section, a slippery drive to the Chavade mountain pass, the Scot missed a curve and landed his Subaru in the snow.

McRae, who ended last season in style by winning the RAC Rally, finished the stage two minutes 38 seconds behind Sainz and outside the top 10 in the overall standings.

World champion Didier Auriol of France, three times winner of the event, was a disappointing seventh, one minute 14 seconds behind Sainz, as he struggled to adapt to the new Toyota Celica GT Four.

Auriol led drivers' criticism of new rules introduced by the International Automobile Federation (FIA) which force teams to enter cars with less powerful engines and limit tyre changes as well as



Finland rally driver Juha Kankkunen arriving in Valencia, southern France at the wheel of his Toyota Celica, during the 63rd Monte-Carlo Rally (AFP photo)

mechanical assistance. "We don't know where we are heading," he said. "We don't know how the car will behave with the new engine but we know that the slightest error, especially in the choice of tyres, will have bigger consequences."

Sainz, who won in Monte Carlo in 1991, was under threat from Delecour, who delighted the hundreds of fans lining the roads with almost reckless driving despite a misfiring engine.

"It's nothing at all," the Frenchman said, "I'm having fun."

More excitement awaited

Delecour in the last four timed stages of the first day on treacherous roads with melting snow and icy patches.

But Sainz sounded confident: "We were lucky with the tyres and the car's just fine," he said.

Leading Monte Carlo standings

1. Carlos Sainz (Spain) Subaru Impreza
2. Francois Delecour (France) Ford Escort
3. Tommi Makinen (Finland) Mitsubishi Lancer
4. Bruno Thiry (Belgium) Ford Escort
5. Juha Kankkunen (Finland) Toyota Celica
6. Piero Liatti (Italy) Subaru Impreza
7. Didier Auriol (France) Toyota Celica
8. Armin Schwarz (Germany) Toyota Celica
9. Andrea Aghini (Italy) Mitsubishi Lancer
10. Philippe Bugalski (France) Renault Clio

Cagliari end Juventus' unbeaten streak

PARIS (AFP) — Italian championship pacesetters Juventus suffered a rude shock at weekend, beaten 3-0 at mid-table Cagliari while Real Madrid retained their serenity and three-point lead in Spain with a 4-0 win at home to Celta Vigo.

The disappointment for Juventus, looking for their first championship title since 1985, was reinforced when Serie A rivals Parma capitalised by moving to within one point of the lead.

Mid-table Cagliari scored two penalties, the first from Luis Oliveira in the seventh minute and the second from Muzzi with 25 minutes to play.

Panamanian Dely Valdes separated those scores with a goal of his own to check Juventus' recent run of success, including wins over Parma and AS Roma in the past fortnight.

It was the side's heaviest defeat of the season which had seen them let in just 13 goals in 15 games before Sunday's setback.

Parma took full advantage with Colombian Faustino Asprilla opening the scoring after two minutes and Gianfranco Zola adding a penalty in the 49th minute in their 2-0 win at Napoli.

Lazio also made the most of Juventus' defeat, winning 1-0 at Brescia through an Alen Boksic strike just before the half-hour. Boksic, who managed a hat-trick in the 7-1 thrashing of Foggia last week, helped Lazio to 31 points and third place in the table to Parma's 35 and Juventus 36.

AS Rome, in fourth on 28,



Blackburn Rovers' Alan Shearer tries an over head volley during his team's clash against Manchester United (AFP photo)

could only manage a 1-1 draw against visiting Cremonese while AC Milan move up one place to fifth, on the same points total as Roma, after a 2-0 win against Fiorentina, whose Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta missed out on making history.

With 15 goals in 15 appearances this season, Batistuta has scored 60 goals in 100 games since he joined Fiorentina in 1991. He is one goal away from joining Giancarlo Antognoni on top of the club's all-times scoring list with 61.

Fiorentina's Daniele Carnasciali was sent off in the second half, sparking a bout crowd trouble which riot police contained.

Milan's French international Marcel Desailly scored the first goal after 78 minutes

and Di Canio added the second with three minutes left.

Real Madrid's 4-0 win against Celta Vigo delighted 90,000 home fans. Their 17-year-old star Raul scored two goals in the 22 and 51st minute and Fernando Hierro added two more in the 26th and 70th.

The Madrid club maintains its three points lead on top of the table while La Coruna and Zaragoza, second and third, kept up the chase.

Bebeto scored in the eighth minute to give Coruna a 1-0 win at Logrones, the bottom club without a win this season.

Zaragoza, who have just acquired Brazilian World Cup player Marcos on loan from Sao Paulo, won 3-1 at home to Atletico Madrid with goals from Higuera from the penalty spot after 23 minutes, Esnaider (41min) and Paredes (89min). Atletico Madrid pulled one back through Kiko in the 66th minute.

Barcelona were fortunate to come away with a point from Albacete and fall five points adrift of Real in fourth place. They were one down in the first minute with a goal from Dercyica 1.

Amor equalised but Bjelic put the home side ahead just after the half hour. With Romario gone and their striker Hristo Stoichkov suspended, Barcelona looked a lost cause. But with just five minutes to go central defender

scored the equaliser.

In France Lyon beat Cannes 3-1 to move from sixth to third place. The match took centre stage as neither of the top two sides, leaders Nantes and reigning champions Paris St. Germain were playing.

Florian Maurice had Lyon 1-0 up in the very first minute. Stephane Roche fired home on the rebound and Claude-Arnaud Rivetnet rounded the Cannes goal-keeper 20 minutes from time to seal the points.

Lyon could even move into second place if the French Football Federation rubber-stamp a League decision made last week.

The League awarded Lyon victory over Metz after last week's match was stopped because of falling snow in the 63rd minute with Lyon 2-1 up.

Cantona helps United close gap

A spectacular headed goal by Eric Cantona nine minutes from the end gave champion Manchester United a 1-0 victory over standings leader Blackburn Sunday and threw the English Premier League title race wide open again.

Rovers' midfielder Tim Sherwood had a goal disallowed a minute from the end but United deservedly collected the three points and now trails Blackburn by only two.

It was a day the champion made the league leader look second best.

Italian First Division scorers

- 15 — Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina)
- 11 — Sandro Tovelieri (Bari)
- 10 — Giuseppe Signori (Lazio)
- 9 — Abel Balbo (Roma)
- 8 — Gianfranco Zola (Parma)
- 7 — Alen Boksic (Lazio), Fabrizio Ravazzoli and Gianluca Vialli (Juventus)

Spanish First Division Scorers

- 17 — Ivan Zamorano (Real Madrid)
- 13 — Meho Kodro (Real Sociedad)
- 9 — Pedrag Mijatovic (Valencia), Davor Suker (Sevilla), Angel Cuellar (Real Betis)
- 8 — Juan Esnaider (Real Zaragoza), Jose Amavisca (Real Madrid), Carlos Muzzo (Real Oviedo)
- 7 — Ronald Koeman (Barcelona), Vladimir Gudell (Celta), Juan Pizzi (Tenerife), Kiko Narvaez (Atletico Madrid)
- 6 — Hristo Stoichkov (Barcelona), Florin Raducioiu and Jordi Lardin Espanol, Bebe and Julio Salinas, Deportivo Coruna, Bent Christensen (Compostela), Jalen Guerrero (Athletic Bilbao).

Black weekend for Algerian soccer

JOHANNESBURG (AFP)

— Algerian football went into mourning Sunday after the murder of a leading football official.

Suspected Islamic fundamentalists shot national federation president Rachid Haraigue outside his home in the centre of the capital, Algiers, and he died in hospital.

Haraigue, 58, had been appointed only last year, and his murder triggered immediate reaction from world governing body FIFA and the African Football Confederation (CAF).

FIFA deplored the killing in a statement issued from the Swiss headquarters, while CAF-based CAF ordered one minute's silence before the 11 Nations' Cup matches scheduled for this weekend.

Algeria, buoyant after a home victory over Group 4 leaders Egypt two weeks ago, lost 2-1 to Tanzania Saturday in a crucial African Nations Cup qualifier.

Victory gave the Tanzanians a share of first place with Egypt, who once again displayed their defensive strength to force a 0-0 draw with Uganda in Kampala.

Cameroon crash in qualifier

Zimbabwe crushed Cameroon, Burkina Faso stole a point off Ivory Coast and Senegal staged a great escape in Liberia during a weekend of African Nations' Cup drama.

Vitalis Takawira was the Zimbabwean hero in Harare, scoring a hat-trick as the Warriors devoured the once-mighty Indomitable Lions, who had Simon Moukoko sent off before half-time.

Lesotho, shock conquerors of Cameroon last year, could not contain Malawi, who maintained their unbeaten record with second-half goals from Lovemore Chafunya and Hendrix Banda in Maseru.

Burkina Faso, whose only previous appearance in the finals was 17 years ago when the west African country was called Upper Volta, staged a superb recovery to draw 2-2 in Abidjan.

Senegal left it even later to rescue a point in Liberia, Austrian-based forward Souleymane Sane scoring in the third minute of injury time to snatch a 1-1 draw.

Ghana maintained their merciless march towards the finals from Group 3 with a 3-1 home victory over Congo, who were sunk by two goals in as many minutes during the second half.

Yokohama lift Asian Cup Winners' Cup

SHARJAH (AFP) — Japan's Yokohama Flügels beat host club Al Shaab 2-1 in sudden-death extra-time to win the Asian Cup Winners' Cup final in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, Sunday.

The J. League club's hero was 25-year-old central defender Ippei Watanabe, who headed both his side's goals from set-pieces, the decisive one coming five minutes into extra-time to finish the match.

A capacity crowd of 10,000 in the Khalid bin Mohammed Stadium saw Watanabe rise high above the home defence to head in a right-wing corner in the 37th minute which gave the visitors a 1-0 lead at half-time.

Al Shaab substitute Keita Makani equalised in the 74th minute to take the tie into extra-time but it was the Japanese who struck first. Midfielder Takeo Harada swung over a free-kick from the left and Watanabe, unmarked at the far post, squeezed in a header from a narrow angle.

It was Japan's third victory in five editions of the Asian Cup Winners' Cup following the double success of Nissan.

In the play-off for third place, Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad beat the Telephone Organisation from Bangkok 3-0 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

Barkley's Suns down Shaq's Magic Bulls crush champion Rockets 100-81

PHOENIX, Arizona (AFP)

— The National Basketball Association's top two teams went head-to-head on Sunday, with veteran Charles Barkley and his Phoenix Suns triumphing 111-110 in overtime over youngster Shaquille O'Neal and the Orlando Magic.

Phoenix's Dan Majerle led all scorers with 28 points and Barkley added 25 with 14 rebounds and nine assists.

O'Neal had 24 points for Orlando, which suffered only its eighth loss in 40 games.

O'Neal was ineffective in overtime, when he missed three close shots.

"We never thought we could shut Shaq down, and tonight we didn't shut him down," Phoenix coach Paul Westphal said. "He missed some shots he ordinarily makes, so we're not going to take credit."

Orlando tried to downplay the loss.

"All the media hyped this game so much that it was a big game for us," said Horace Grant, who scored 12 points for the Magic. "But the loss means nothing. It's just another one of 82 games we play this season, and I told the guys that going into the game."

While the season's leaders battled it out, the defending champion Houston Rockets fell 100-81 to the Bulls in Chicago.

Hakeem Olajuwon, who earned most valuable player honours while leading Houston to the title last season, hit a miserable two of 18

attempts.

"I shot two of 18? Must be the worst game of the season," said Olajuwon.

The Bulls' centre trio of Australian Luc Longley, Will Perdue and Bill Wennington said they knew Olajuwon was having a bad night, and they tried to make it a little worse.

"He had a cold night and struggled to finish his shots," Longley said. "But we got in his way now and again."

"I wasn't aggressive enough, there's no excuse," Olajuwon said.

And Rockets coach Rudy

a season-best 27 to lead the Washington Bullets over the New Jersey Nets 109-103.

The win was the bullets' third in four games after losing 18 of 19. The loss was the third straight for New Jersey and 11th in 14 games.

Derrick Coleman led New Jersey with 23 points and nine rebounds. Chris Morris added 21 and Kenny Anderson had 20 points, but only four in the second half.

In Minneapolis, Doug West had 21 points and scored Minnesota's first eight points of the fourth quarter

NBA ROUNDUP

Tomjanovich said he couldn't begin to explain Olajuwon's lapse.

"I don't know how to analyse something when it doesn't happen but once every couple of leap years," he said. "When you can't get the ball in the hole, it magnifies a lot of things. Frustration sets in and you start passing up open shots. That was basically the problem."

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Rex Chapman hit seven 3-pointers and scored a season-high 35 points and rookie Juwan Howard added

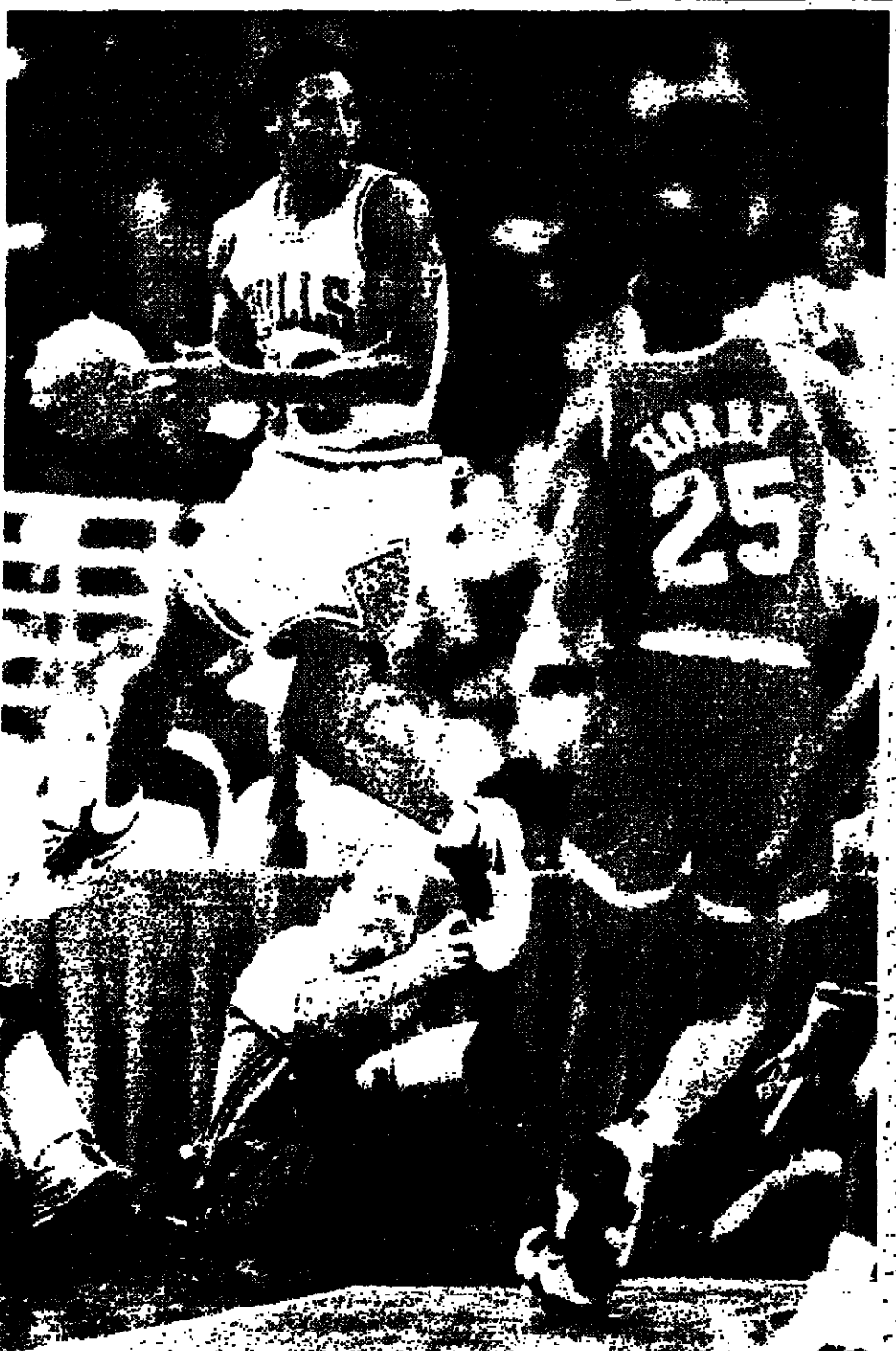
as the Timberwolves handed the Charlotte Hornets just their second loss in 12 games, 100-83.

West, who had seven rebounds and six assists, scored six in a row in the final period's opening minutes after Charlotte had closed to 84-70.

Isiah Rider led all scorers, with 29 points, and the Wolves held the Hornets to just 37 per cent shooting from the field.

Alonzo Mourning led the Hornets with 20 points and 12 rebounds.

Chicago	100	Houston	81
Washington	109	New Jersey	103
Indiana	96	San Antonio	93
Minnesota	100	Charlotte	83
Phoenix	111	Orlando	110 (OT)
New York	104	Miami	95
Portland	103	Sacramento	87



Chicago Bulls forward Scottie Pippen (left) jumps into the air as he recovers a ball the United Centre in Chicago. The Bulls won 100-81 (AFP photo)

Unhappy Pippen wants to transfer

CHICAGO (AP) — Scottie

Pippen, the unhappy Chicago Bulls star who wants to be traded, has hurt the chances of a deal with his frequent outbursts against management of the National Basketball Association club, team owner Jerry Reinsdorf said.

"Scottie's outbursts have created the perception that we have to do something," he told the Chicago Tribune in a telephone interview from his Arizona home.

"Teams may feel they have us over a barrel. It's going to take a while before they realise we don't have to trade him. As of now, I don't think we'll trade him."

Reinsdorf also said Pippen knew when he signed his contract in 1991 that he shouldn't agree to it if he planned to change his mind before it expires in 1998.

"There's no way I'll redo his contract," Reinsdorf said. "My policy is to try to work out an extension when a play-

er has two years left.

"I know he's underpaid. Sometimes I make good deals, and sometimes I make bad deals."

Reinsdorf doesn't want to get into a war of words with Pippen, but he said he had to speak out so that other teams understood the Bulls were not desperate to make a deal.

Still, he wouldn't discount the possibility of a trade — eventually.

"It would be stupid to make a trade that doesn't make us a better team," he said. "I don't think they really want to trade him."

Pippen leaders the Bulls in all major statistical categories, but his salary is not among the top 40 in the NBA. He's the fourth-highest paid player on his team, having signed a five-year, \$18 million extension in 1991.

Pippen won't become a free agent until he is 32 in the 1997-98 season. His ire stems from a lack of respect and appreciation.

"I told him when he was getting ready to sign this deal that 'halfway through it you're going to think you're underpaid, especially since we front-loaded it,'" Reinsdorf said.

"His answer was, 'you'll never hear from me.' I told him I didn't believe it, but he promised that would be the case."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TARIK HUSSEIN
© 1995 Tribune Media Services Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ72 753 ♣K784 ♠97
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—This hand has become very good indeed, but the holding included the jack of spades instead of a low card, we would probably ask for some right away. Now we want to tell partner about how much we like our hand and the choices are three spades or a high reverse of three diamonds. Our choice is the former, since it highlights the quality of our spade suit.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ72 ♠AKQ 985432 ♠K
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Beware of singleton honors—their value is usually overstated. Change the king of clubs to the king in any other suit and a move toward slam would be warranted. Here, we think that a move to four spades, a sign-off, adequately describes your hand.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ72 ♠AK 985432 ♠K
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Only two bids come into consideration: two no trump and three clubs. The responder would opt for a club raise for a simple reason. With your wealth of controls, slam

is possible on many minimum hands where partner has good clubs.

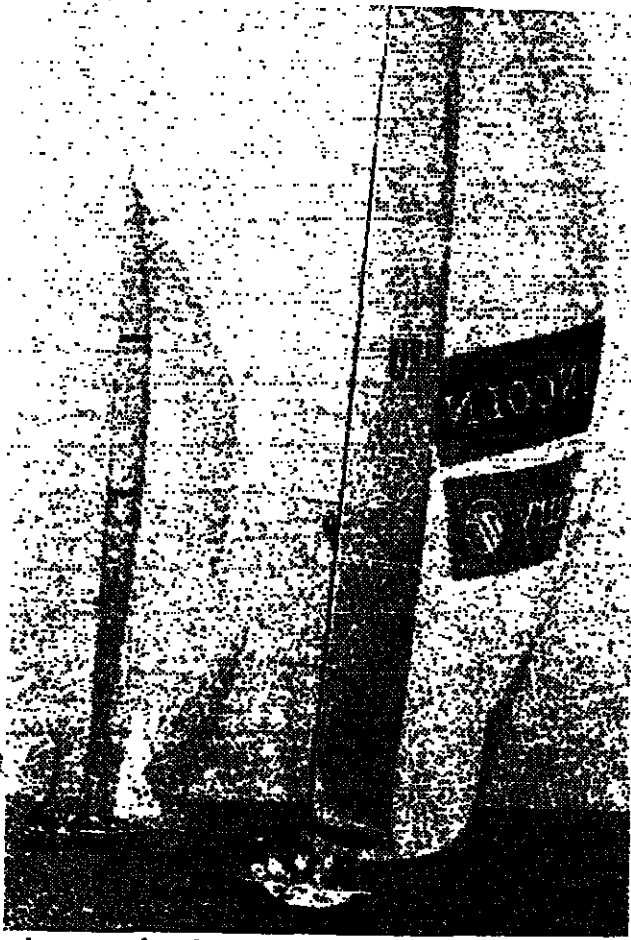
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQ72 ♠AKQ72 ♠AKQ72 ♠AKQ72

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—You are certainly worth at least one move toward game. West's overall might have shut out partner's one-spade response and, if partner does have four spades, that strain might produce game when there are only 10 tricks available at both spades and diamonds. Bid two spades.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQ72 ♠AKQ72 ♠AKQ72 ♠AKQ72

Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?
A.—You are in slam territory and you will need all the room there is to investigate. Bid three spades. That is a game-forcing response, leaving open the question of where and at what level to play the contract. Don't jump to four spades. That is a weak bid denying slam interest.



A crewmember aboard Young America (R) hangs onto the mast 22 January during their America's Cup race against Stars and Stripes (AFP photo)

Kiwis top the charts in Americas Cup

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — It is not unusual to have a New Zealand boat atop the challenge standings during the America's Cup trials.

Now there are two. New Zealand's two rival teams, representing the first multiple challenge from New Zealand, both came from behind early in their races Sunday to score victories over the two Australian boats as the first round of America's Cup trials concluded.

The results put Team New Zealand and Chris Dickson's Tag Heuer Challenge 1-2, respectively, after the first of four round-robins in the Louis Vuitton Cup.

"We're certainly ahead of where we thought we'd be," said Dickson, whose team trained for only four days before the first round began.

"We're improving every day. Now we've got a notebook full of things to do before the second round begins. But we've got a good team and Bruce Farr has designed us a good boat."

"We're pleasantly surprised," said Team New Zealand skipper Russell Coutts. "We've got room for improvement, too."

The Coutts-skipped Team New Zealand rallied from a slow start to defeat Syd Fischer's Sydney 95, which withdrew on the last leg after trailing by more than 2½ minutes.

U.S. swimming officials seek to ban Chinese

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AFP) — U.S. swimming officials want to ban China from the Pan Pacific swimming championships in Atlanta in August because 10 Chinese swimmers tested positive for banned drugs in 1994.

The board of directors of U.S. Swimming, the sport's governing body in the United States, made the recommendation over the weekend.

A decision on the proposal is expected on February 12, when U.S. officials meet in Hawaii with the three other Pan Pacific charter countries, Australia, Canada and Japan.

Chinese women won 12 of 16 gold medals on offer at the 1994 World Championships in Rome and none tested positive for banned drugs. But in random tests before and after the Asian Games later in the year seven Chinese swimmers failed — four men and three women. Among those who tested positive was Yang Aihua, who won the women's 400m freestyle world title on September 7, and tested positive on September 30 for high levels of the male hormone testosterone.

Australian Open

Agassi breaks Australians' hearts Sawamatsu, Kafelnikov in quarters; Edberg out

MELBOURNE (Agencies) — Second-seeded Andre Agassi broke millions of Australian hearts when he outclassed the country's tennis pin-up Patrick Rafter in straight sets at the Australian Open tennis Monday.

Agassi stormed to a 6-3, 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 fourth round victory to set up a quarter-final with young 10th-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who earlier knocked out American Todd Martin.

It was man against boy as the reigning U.S. Open champion dismantled Rafter's serve-and-volley game, stringing together 33 winners.

On this form, Agassi is heading for an anticipated final showdown with world No. 1 Pete Sampras in Sunday's final.

The flamboyant American, wearing his pirate bandana, cracked 13 backhand winners and nine forehand winners as he mopped up the final set to love in just 21 minutes.

It was Agassi's third straight win over the 22-year-old Australian.

"He was far too good for me tonight, he hit too many clean winners," said Rafter, adding that Agassi could make "you look pretty silly out there."

"He wouldn't give me a volley. If you don't get one, it's pretty hard to win a game," he said.

"It was definitely very focussed tennis on my part," Agassi said.

"I've been around for a while now in matches with this kind of anticipation, it feels like I've had a few of them and a chance to experience the better end of it and the worst end of it."

"I was pretty prepared and I knew what I had to do. I tried to keep as disciplined as possible and not to let anything rattle me mentally or emotionally and I thought I executed that well."

Agassi said it was the first experience of such an occasion for Rafter and he deserved a lot of credit for the way he handled the pressure.

"The crowd can either work for you or against you and it all depends on how you respond to it and it allowed me to bear down and maybe distract him a bit. It came down to tennis tonight and I thought I hit the ball well."

Agassi said he felt he was in for a tough battle in Rafter's first three service games.

"Apart from hitting the aces he was going for a lot on his second serve and it took me a while to get a read on it, took me a while to zone in on it."

The Las Vegas dazzler said he was fortunate to have a first-week draw where he could move through so easily into the second week.

Agassi, who became the first unseeded player to win the U.S. Open in almost 30 years last September in New York, said he could not peak unless he was pushed flat out.

"The next round against Kafelnikov is when I want to see myself more to another level."

Stefan Edberg suffered his earliest exit for over a decade at the Australian Open as unseeded Aaron Krickstein joined Agassi, world number one Pete Sampras, Jim Courier and Michael Chang in the last eight.

Edberg, who has reached at least the last eight in Melbourne on every visit save his

first as a 16-year-old in 1982, won the first two sets only to see Krickstein conjure a 6-7 5-7 6-4 7-6 6-4 triumph from near-certain defeat.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov powered into the first grand slam quarter-final of his short but successful tennis career when he upset American Todd Martin in straight sets Monday.

The sometimes volatile Russian, seeded 10th, downed eighth-seeded Martin 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in just 96 minutes.

He was joined in the last eight by power-serving Dutchman Jacco Eltingh, who slammed down 34 aces in his marathon victory over American Patrick McEnroe.

Eltingh triumphed 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (7-9), 5-7, 6-4 after a draining three hour-37 minute struggle.

Japan's Sawamatsu goes through

Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu gave her devastated parents something to cheer when she won through to her first-ever grand slam quarter-final at the Australian Open tennis championships.

Sawamatsu, 21, whose family home near Kobe was destroyed in last week's earthquake, stunned American 11th-seed Mary Joe Fernandez 6-4 7-6 with some fighting tennis after she decided not to pull out of the tournament on the advice of her aunt.

The 26th-ranked university student, who desperately wanted to lift her parents' spirits by winning, now meets top seed and world number two Arantxa Sanchez Vicario who beat Slovakia's Karina Habšudova 7-5 6-0 and has yet to drop a set at the open.

In a second major surprise, another 21-year-old, Mexico's Angelica Gavaldon, pulled off a shock 7-5 6-0 victory over third seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic, to reach her second Grand Slam.



Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu celebrates after beating her opponent to reach the quarter-finals (AFP photo)



Sweden's Stefan Edberg waves to the Melbourne crowd (AFP photo)

quarter final. The 96th-ranked Gavaldon, who has achieved little of note in the game since her previous appearance in the last eight at Flinders Park in 1990, took full advantage of a listless display by Novotna and wrapped up the second set in just 24 minutes.

"It was just a horrible match," Novotna said. "I cannot remember when I played so badly."

Gavaldon now meets 47th-ranked American Mariame Werdel Witmeyer, ensuring at least one unseeded semi-finalist.

Japan's Sawamatsu, who described the win as her best-ever result, was also given some cheer with the news that her best friend, feared killed in last Tuesday's earthquake, was in fact alive.

But she added that a lot of people she knew, including a senior tennis official, had died in the earthquake which killed nearly 5,000 people and left another 300,000 homeless.

The disaster had cast a mood of deep gloom over the

Japanese contingent at the Open and Monday prompted the players on the women's tour to organise an auction for earthquake victims during next week's Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo.

"We are going to try and do stuff while we are there (in Tokyo) and do everything we can now to raise money," American Lindsay Davenport told reporters.

Players' racquets, clothing and shoes are being donated for the auction, according to the sixth-ranked Davenport, who said she also expected cash donations.

Sanchez Vicario was not thinking about her quarter-final opponent. "I just try to play match by match. I know Naoko very well and she knows me too ... she's a very good player and also fights hard."

Sawamatsu certainly battled for every point against Fernandez, the 1992 Open finalist, who fought back from 5-2 down in the second set to take the match to a tie-break.

Super Bowl ticket demand declining

MIAMI (R) — With the Super Bowl only a week away, hotels in Miami were already filled to the brim but demand for tickets to next Sunday's game appeared to be declining amid expectations it will be a blowout.

Tickets with a face value of \$200 overlooking the end zone were reported to be selling for between \$700 and \$800, down from around \$1,000 a few days ago. The excitement of being in

the same city this week could well surpass the excitement of being in Joe Robbie Stadium on January 29.

The San Francisco 49ers, champions of the National Football Conference, are favoured by about 20 points over the American Football Conference's San Diego Chargers.

Teams from the NFC have won the last ten Super Bowls and few expect the run to be halted by San Diego this

year. Nevertheless, swarms of visitors have filled Miami hotels to overflowing.

Early visitors will be able to attend a "free" concert by world famous tenor Luciano Pavarotti with the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra on Miami Beach Sunday although their view may be restricted as promoters have sold seats directly in front of the stage for up to \$190 each.

Yeboah finally links up with Leeds

LONDON (R) — Ghanaian international striker Anthony Yeboah finally joined Leeds United for a club record fee of 3.4 million pounds (\$5.39 million) on Monday ending weeks of delays that held up his signing.

The 28-year-old originally agreed a move to Elland Road almost three weeks ago but before he officially joined from German club Eintracht Frankfurt, Yeboah had to wait for a work permit.

Even when that finally arrived his signing was delayed because he had forgotten to obtain a visa.

But on Monday he trained with his new team mates for the first time and admitted to being only "70 or 80 per cent fit" having not played since the beginning of the Bundesliga break.

But he was confident of his ability to adapt quickly to the hectic demands of the English Premier League after

finishing Germany's top scorer in two seasons.

"I think the German type of football and that in England is quite similar although football here is very aggressive," said Yeboah.

"When I first went to Germany from Ghana I was very young and found it tough in the first two or three months but I soon adapted and I'll be trying as hard as possible to adapt to football over here as well."

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TENDER'S NOTICE

The Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education announces the extension of closing date of the following tenders as a part of the third Education Sector Investment Project No. (JO-P8) financed by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan (OECF). Until February 15, 1995 instead of January 31st, 1995.

Tender's No.	Title	Fees JD
1394 (A)	Lab. Equipment (Physics & Geology Lab)	75
1394 (B)	Lab. Equipment (Chemistry & Biology)	75
1394 (C)	Edu. Video Cassettes	25
1494	Audio Visual Aids	100
1594	Sports Equipment	100
1694	Arts & Craft Equipment	100
1794(A)	Pre-Vocational Edu. W/Shop	75
1794(B)	Women Education	50
1894	Office Equipment	100
1994	Computer	200

Interested bidders are invited to collect tenders documents from Procurement Division of the Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education, against the Payment of the above fees.

Head of Special Tenders Committee

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Mubarak refuses to budge on NPT

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak insisted Monday that Egypt would not sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) unless Israel also joins up, as talks with Israeli and U.S. officials failed to break the deadlock.

"I confirm once again that I will not sign the (extension of the) NPT unless Israel signs it or unless we reach an arrangement assuring us in advance" that the Jewish state will do so in the future, he told the weekly Mayo, mouthpiece of the ruling National Democratic Party.

"It is an irrevocable principle. Egypt will not bow to any pressure whatever the circumstances, for its dignity is too precious and we will not allow anything to damage it."

Mr. Mubarak met U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Robert Pelletreau on Monday to discuss the issue.

The visiting envoy was terse after the meeting, saying only that "relationships between Egypt and the USA are strong and excellent."

Mr. Pelletreau has said the United States was trying "to convince the signatory countries not to link their position on the treaty's adoption to the position of another country."

Experts have warned that Egypt's stance could put it on a collision course with the United States, its main aid donor.

Washington is pushing hard for the treaty, which is due to be renewed by a meeting of the 169 member states in April in New York, to be extended indefinitely.

Mr. Mubarak's political advisor Osama Al Baz held talks Sunday with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin but failed to resolve the two countries' differences.

He warned that Arab countries could obtain nuclear weapons themselves if Israel continued to possess a nuclear arsenal.

Mr. Beilin said: "We are not going to sign the NPT. First we should have a comprehensive peace in our part of the world and then work to have a nuclear-free zone, and then to join the NPT later."

The Russian ambassador to Cairo, Vladimir Poliakov, said Moscow was also in contact with Israel and Arab countries so that "all the countries in the region adhere to the NPT or sign its extension."

"Israel will sign the treaty at the end of the day and the main thing is to avoid a proliferation of nuclear arms in the Middle East," he said.

Israel has consistently refused to sign the NPT and has never acknowledged possessing nuclear weapons, although Western experts say the Jewish state has about 200 nuclear warheads.

Mr. Pelletreau's visit comes about two weeks after a trip by Defense Secretary William Perry, apparently to reassure Egypt of its role as a strategic ally. Vice President Al Gore is to visit Cairo this spring, and President Mubarak is expected to meet President Bill Clinton in March in Washington.

Some Egyptian officials fear Congress may cut its \$2.1 billion in annual assistance, Washington's second-largest aid commitment, despite reassurances by Mr. Perry and other U.S. officials.

Mr. Pelletreau stressed the United States' strong relations with Cairo, but in doubt by a series of articles in U.S. newspapers criticising Egypt's close relations with Libya and asking for an aid cut.

"The relationship between Egypt and the United States is a strong and excellent relationship," Mr. Pelletreau told reporters.

He warned that Arab countries could obtain nuclear weapons themselves if Israel continued to possess a nuclear arsenal.

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RELIEF: An emergency supply worker checks through his inventory of boxes at Ashiya, Kobe. Large quantities of supplies and basic needs provided by Japan and countries

around the world are available for the victims of Tuesday's earthquake at shelters and distribution centres (see page one) (AFP photo)

Jordan, Israel discuss gas plant — MEES

NICOSIA (AP) — Israel is holding talks with Jordan to build a terminal near the Kingdom's port of Aqaba to process liquefied natural gas for both countries, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The oil industry newsletter, published in Nicosia, said that Jordan had "expressed great interest in this proposal."

The weekly newsletter said that Enron Corporation, the largest U.S. gas transmission company, was expected to start preliminary talks with Israel for the delivery of around two million to 2.5 million tonnes of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) a year to the proposed regasification terminal near Aqaba, which lies close to the Israeli port of Eilat.

Enron is negotiating with Qatar and Yemen on major LNG projects.

On Jan. 18, it signed a letter of intent with Qatar for the envisaged export of up to five million tonnes a year, with first deliveries to India and Middle Eastern countries, probably Jordan and Israel, to start in late 1998 or early 1999.

Most of this is expected to be destined for Israel, with some two million tonnes a year for India.

Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel in October, the first with an Arab state since Egypt in 1979. Israel is pushing hard to open trading links with Arab states as the U.S.-sponsored peace process unfolds.

Qatar, which pursues a foreign policy that is increasingly independent of its five partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), has said it will not sign any

trade deal with Israel before the peace process has been completed.

But oil industry sources say that it is not likely to be a major problem given the time frame involved for Enron's deliveries from Qatar and because Qatar, along with the other GCC states, last year lifted the secondary economic boycott of companies that do business with Israel.

Senior Qatari officials have met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, a staunch advocate of establishing firm trade links with the Arab World, several times over the last 18 months.

Reports from Israel in recent months have said Israel also hopes to sign an agreement with Qatar for transporting Gulf oil and gas to Europe through Israeli ports.

Qatar is rapidly developing its gas fields, the biggest in

the world with reserves estimated at four trillion cubic metres. So far its main export targets have been the Far East. It is now developing offshore reserves and needs new markets.

The economic survey said one of the "particularly attractive features" of the \$4 billion Enron package was the focus on short-haul customers in West Asia and the Middle East "rather than the traditional emphasis on long-haul clients in the Far East."

"This means that Enron is not competing with existing LNG projects in Qatar."

The weekly newsletter said under the agreement signed in Doha, Enron "will undertake to arrange and provide all financing for the project."

The U.S. company is committed to buy all the LNG from Qatar's Ras Laffan port,

Kidnap trial opens in Algeria

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The trial of a dozen suspected Islamic militants accused of kidnapping three French consular officials opened here Monday, as journalists ignored an order from a hard-line armed Islamic group to stop work.

Only 12 of the 26 people charged appeared in court, the remainder are still being sought by the security forces. They are accused of membership of a terrorist group, undermining state security and kidnap.

A number of suspects who would have faced trial have been killed in shoot-outs with the security forces.

The French nationals seized by fundamentalist gunmen — Jean-Claude Thevenot and his wife Michele, and Alain Fressier — are not expected to appear in court despite defence demands that they be summoned.

Defence attorneys last month demanded an investigative commission be sent to France to interview the trio. It remains unclear whether the commission has left for France.

The trial at one of Algeria's three special terrorism courts, has been delayed three times by legal arguments.

At a previous hearing defence lawyers alleged one of the main defendants had been castrated during torture by the security forces aimed at securing a confession.

The French consular officials were kidnapped by a gang of fundamentalist gunmen in October 1993 from a carpark outside their home in downtown Algiers as they prepared to go to work.

They were released a week later. Michele Thevenot was freed 24 hours before the others with a message from the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) — the most radical of Algeria's armed Islamic movements — giving foreigners a month to leave the country or face death.

The murder Sunday of Frenchman Joseph Belache took the number of foreigners killed since the ultimatum expired to 76, including 26 French nationals.

Most of the killings have been carried out by the GIA, which Sunday renewed a "ban" on French citizens entering Algeria.

Meanwhile, Algerian television and radio journalists continued to work normally Monday in defiance of a GIA order to stop work.

Midday newscasts went ahead as scheduled without mentioning the GIA death threats, with most of Monday's newspapers also ignored.

The GIA has accused journalists of treachery for failing to uphold their cause, which is to set up an Islamic-run government.

The threat came one day after suspected Islamic militants shot dead the president of Algeria's football federation, Rashid Harigue, in central Algiers.

Deng in good health — senior Chinese official

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Chinese patriarch Deng Xiaoping is in good health but is prone to the illnesses of old age, a senior Chinese official told reporters Monday.

"Deng is actually in good health but being an old man you have to expect old men's illnesses," said Wang Dao Han, who is director of the Shanghai Economic Zone and China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS).

All the Chinese in China are praying that he will have a long life, Mr. Wang said. Mr. Wang, Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur for a forum on Malaysia and China investments, was speaking to reporters, who were expected to report on the opening of the forum. Concerns about the health of Chinese paramount leader Mr. Deng, who is 90 years old, have affected markets in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad told reporters Monday that his country was not worried that Mr. Deng's death would affect the country's economic policies significantly. "We are not worried. China has set its course and it is not going to deflect from this because of a very natural consequence of old age," he said.

Michael Jackson's accuser wants to see him again

LONDON (AFP) — Jordan Chandler, the teenager who claimed singer Michael Jackson sexually abused him, wants to see Mr. Jackson again "to talk things through," he said in an interview published Monday in the daily Today.

"I want to see Michael Jackson again. People might think that's crazy. I know he did some bad things but I feel I have to...," Chandler now 15 told the British daily. "There is so much that has happened, just need to speak to him about it... It would be healthy for us both to meet face to face and talk things through," Chandler was quoted as saying.

When he was 13, Chandler claimed Mr. Jackson had taken advantage of their friendship to make sexual advances to him at the star's "Neverland" ranch in Santa Barbara, California. An official investigation was opened into the allegations in August 1993 but the Chandler family later withdrew the complaint and Jordan refused to testify against the singer following an out-of-court settlement with Mr. Jackson.

7 sentenced to death in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — An Algerian court on Tuesday handed down death sentences against seven people, six of them still on the run, for the October 1993 abduction of three French consular officials. The special court also handed down jail terms against other defendants, including one life term, another of 20 years, two of eight years, one of three and another of six months. Five people were acquitted. The only defendant sentenced to death to be in court was Mohammed Ali Bellouk, a Moroccan accused of having driven the vehicle used in the kidnapping. His mother, Fatima, watched over Michele Thevenot, one of the consular officials kidnapped, was handed a six-month prison sentence.

Honest Kiwi returns wallet with \$15,600

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Iraq to return Kuwaiti property

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraq will resume next month returning Kuwaiti possessions taken during its seven-month occupation of the emirate, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) reported Tuesday. Sheikha, a Foreign Ministry under-secretary, said a Foreign Ministry official had informed him of Iraq's decision Monday.

Visit Al Dalal Bazaar at the Forte Grand Hotel from 23.1.1995 until 25.3.1995

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japanese crown prince visits UAE

ABU DHABI (AP) — Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako arrived Monday on a four-day visit to the United Arab Emirates, the second leg of their Middle East swing. Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan gave the royal couple a red carpet welcome. The official Emirates news agency WAM said the visit will foster bilateral bonds between the two friendly nations. During their stay, the royal couple will meet with a number of officials and inaugurate a new Japanese consulate in Dubai, the second largest emirate among seven federated in the UAE.

Iran rules out talks with U.S.

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has ruled out negotiations with the United States towards normalising ties, broken off 15 years ago, the official news agency IRNA said Monday. Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri told university students and teachers in the city of Semnan, central Iran, that the country's leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had banned officials from any contact with Washington. Ayatollah Khamenei is empowered by the constitution to set the guidelines for the country's domestic and foreign policies. Last November, he rejected "any relations or negotiations" with the United States "unless Washington changes its ways" towards the Islamic republic. "Iran follows an independent policy and no foreign power is allowed to meddle in our affairs," Mr. Nateq Nuri said of the United States. "Our decisions are based on the interest of our country and that of the Islamic World."

Blast suspect's release shifts blame to Iran

LONDON (AFP) — Germany's release earlier this month of a key suspect in the Lockerbie airline bombing has shifted suspicion for the 1988 attack from Libya to Iran, according to press reports here. On December 21, 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 from London to New York was blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people. Abdul Ghandanfar, 53, Syrian-born and one of two Palestinians jailed in Germany for "terrorism" offences, was released in Germany and sent back to Syria as part of a secret deal negotiated with Iran. The pair had been arrested in Frankfurt in October, 1988, two months before the Lockerbie bombing. Ghandanfar's release by German authorities raised doubts about the official view that Libyans were responsible for the atrocity, according to weekend press reports here. At the time of their arrest, together with 12 other Palestinians, the German authorities recovered bomb equipment similar to that used to blow up the Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Israeli interrogators given more 'leeway'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government extended Monday the right of the security services to use greater force to extract confessions, Israeli radio reported. A ministerial committee which oversees the security services and is chaired by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin took the decision. In November, Mr. Rabin eased restrictions on the use of force for three months following a wave of attacks by Islamic fundamentalists. Israeli interrogators are supposed to follow guidelines which allow for "moderate physical pressure," but human rights groups have long charged that Palestinians are routinely tortured.

Prehistoric fossils found in Oman

MUSCAT (AFP) — French and Italian geologists have discovered plant fossils 280 million years old in the Houshi Haq region of central Oman, the daily Oman reported here Monday. Oil ministry expert Hareb Al Hashemi, quoted by the paper, said samples of prehistoric tree trunks, branches and leaves had been sent to France for

analysis. The excavations are part of a three-year international research project on geological changes which also covers sites in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Morocco, Mr. Hashemi said.

Egypt opens Gaza office

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Egypt became the second Arab country to establish diplomatic links with the Palestinian self-rule authority when it opened a representative office here Monday. Egyptian diplomat Mahmoud Korayem presented his credentials to Yasser Arafat and later told reporters "relations between Egypt and the Palestinian Authority are constantly strengthened." A career diplomat who headed the Palestinian department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, Mr. Korayem said his functions will include expanding economic cooperation with the Palestinians and facilitating travel to Egypt. Morocco was the first Arab country to establish a diplomatic office in Gaza.

Moroccans pray for rain

RABAT (R) — Prayers for rain were held in mosques and synagogues across Morocco this weekend but reports say it may already be too late to save this year's harvest with water reservoirs virtually empty and the rainy season half over. The meteorological centre in Casablanca said on Monday there was no chance of rain for the next five days. "We are facing a drought. It is there for all to see," said Al Bayane newspaper in a recent editorial. The country has so far received only 657 million cubic metres of rain, one third of the amount in a normal year. The rainy season normally runs from September to April.

Israeli businessman shot dead in Hungary

BUDAPEST (AFP) — An Israeli businessman was shot dead by a fellow Israeli visiting him in the eastern Nyiregyhaza Sunday, police said Monday. The 33-year-old victim, who was identified only by his initials, as C.M., died on the spot after he was shot in the chest from a 6.35-calibre Zbrojovka handgun in his rented flat in Nyiregyhaza Sunday afternoon, police said. They found that the man was shot by a visitor, fellow Israeli Ish Datskhvili, who was on the run Monday. Police launched a wide investigation to find Datskhvili, they added.

Iranian hijackers extradited to Russia

OSLO (AFP) — Three Iranian citizens who took control of an airliner from the Russian Aeroflot company in September 1993 and forced the plane to land outside Oslo, will be extradited to Russia on Tuesday. "The plane for Moscow leaves tomorrow morning, and the three Iranian hijackers will be handed over to Russian authorities on arrival in Moscow, police inspector Stale Svendsen said. The defence lawyers asked the Ministry of Justice Monday to secure some basic rights for the hijackers. They want to know which Russian prison the hijackers will go to, and who will be responsible for the investigation on the Russian side.

Kuwaiti dinars going cheap in Greece

ATHENS (AFP) — Kuwaiti dinars stolen from Kuwaiti banks during the Gulf war are being sold on the cheap by two companies in Greece, the pro-government Greek daily Niki reported in its evening edition Monday. The paper said the two Athens-based companies, which it refused to name, were selling the dinars for between 150 and 200 drachmas (60 and 75 U.S. cents). The official rate in the Greek banks is 700 drachmas (\$2.9). The paper said an unnamed businessman had been invited to buy 100,000 dinars at 17 million drachmas or slightly more than \$70,000, while the official value was 70 million drachmas or \$290,000. The businessman contacted the paper with the story, it said.

Saudi-Yemeni team to work out settlement

RIYADH (Agencies) — A joint Saudi-Yemeni team was to start work Monday to map a framework for settlement of border disputes that have led to military clashes in recent weeks, officials said.

The officials, who spoke on condition they not be named, said the work team also would spell out the basis for normalising relations between Riyadh and Sanaa.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal will head the Saudi side to the talks while the Yemeni side will be led by Planning Minister Abdul Qader Bajamal and Deputy Foreign Minister Abdo Ali Abdul Rahman.

The move towards easing the tensions that threatened a conflagration in the south-eastern region of the Arabian peninsula was a result of talks that Yemeni Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmad had with the Saudi leadership.

WHO: Up to 2.9 million women might die of AIDS in 1990s

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new study on women and AIDS published by the United Nations in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing from September 4-15, 1995, shows that women have moved to the centre of this growing epidemic, which was long considered a "homosexual man's disease."

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), five million women worldwide have been infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), and almost half of all newly infected adults are women. In 1993 alone, more than one million women contracted the virus. WHO estimates that by the year 2000, nearly 14 million women will have become infected with HIV, and about four million will have died.

Young women appear to be the group most susceptible to HIV infection. According to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) study on AIDS, 70 per cent of the 3,000 women a day who contract HIV and the 500 women who die daily

from AIDS worldwide are between the ages of 15 and 25.

Women run the additional risk of transmitting the virus to their babies during pregnancy, delivery or while breastfeeding, particularly since the majority of women are not aware of their condition and are often diagnosed after becoming pregnant or giving birth.

Women's greater vulnerability to HIV is portrayed by the study as the result of biological, epidemiological and social factors. As the receptive partner, women have a larger mucosal surface exposed during intercourse; moreover, semen contains a far higher concentration of HIV than vaginal fluid, meaning that women run a bigger risk of infection.

Women are also epidemiologically more vulnerable to HIV transmission through blood transfusion, which, particularly in the developing world, they frequently require during pregnancy or childbirth.

But social factors, particularly women's sexual subordination, are most likely to expose women to the risk of HIV infection, the study said. In the UNDP study on

AIDS, several women said that they dared not deny a husband his "conjugal rights" even when they knew that he was engaging in risky sexual behaviour, since to do so might result in divorce or abandonment. The same women confessed unwillingness to broach the subject of condom use with their husbands for fear of similar repercussions. In addition, often force women into commercial sex, which significantly increases their risk of infection.

Women's sexual subordination is seen by the study as a direct result of their lower status in society, lack of independent income and lack of control over their sexual and economic lives. At the World Conference on Women in Beijing, the question of women and AIDS will be high on the agenda. This preparatory study concludes that the world is yet to fully realise the special threat that AIDS poses to women, and that combating this threat requires the end of discrimination against women as well as the dismantling of cultural and legal barriers which obstruct women's decision-making and choices.

Missing American airman
ANKARA (AP) — A U.S. Air Force pilot who disappeared while training in Turkey last week was found alive in a Turkish military hospital, a U.S. official said Monday. The pilot, who was found in a Turkish military hospital in Ankara, was in good health and was being treated for his injuries. The pilot, who was found in a Turkish military hospital in Ankara, was in good health and was being treated for his injuries. The pilot, who was found in a Turkish military hospital in Ankara, was in good health and was being treated for his injuries.

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King honours
Korean envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday conferred on North Korea's Ambassador to Jordan Gung Sok Ung the Order of the First Order of the Medal of the First Order on the occasion of the ambassador's end of duty in Jordan. The medal was presented to the outgoing ambassador by the King's Palace. The ambassador, who was in Jordan for a year, was praised for his work and for his contribution to the development of relations between the two countries.

Jerusalem settlers
defy government

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The heads of settlement movements around Jerusalem defied the government on Tuesday by setting up a forum to boost construction. The move was announced as a direct challenge to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who on Sunday set up a special ministerial committee to control new building in "greater Jerusalem." Local authority chiefs from Jerusalem and the settlements of Maale Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, Gush Etzion, Efrat and Betar met Tuesday in the Holy City and announced "cooperative efforts aimed at fighting to maintain the momentum in construction and development of the entire area."

Prince Sultan hails
talks with Yemenis

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has hailed talks with Yemeni officials aimed at settling a border dispute, saying they are being conducted in a "fraternal" spirit. Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, quoted by the official news agency SPA, said the Saudi cabinet Tuesday the talks "are taking place in a fraternal spirit with the aim of reaching a joint approach to all the outstanding problems between the two countries." The Yemeni delegation led by Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmad has been in Riyadh since Sunday. Sheikh Al Ahmad told AFP two countries had agreed to set up a joint committee to outline an accord to settle the 40-year-old dispute and discuss ways to develop Saudi-Yemeni ties.

7 sentenced to death in Algeria

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